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MALAYSIA TO BUY POTATOES, ONIONS FROM PAKISTAN

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 80 p 9

[Text]

MARCH 10: Malaysia is considering buying onions, potatoes and carpets on a large scale from Pakistan. Mr. Datuk Ismail bin Budin, the Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan said here today.

Talking to Mr. Tariq Sayeed, Senior Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi, he said Malaysia fully realises the need for raising the volume of trade between the two countries and pointed out that the possibility of exporting other items from Pakistan could also be examined to the mutual advantage of both the countries.

He further disclosed that a Malaysian shipping delegation

would soon visit Pakistan to discuss shipping problems with the authorities, lack of which, he observed, had served as major constraint on two-way trade expansion between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tariq Sayeed, expressed particular concern over the insignificant volume of trade between the two countries and said that not only had the balance of trade been consistently against Pakistan, but the volume of trade between the two countries had failed to register any notable improvement over a long time and suggested that Pakistan could import timber in bulk from Malaysia by chartered ships under the group licensing procedure.

CSO: 4220

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

INDIA, BANGLADESH SURVEY ISLANDS--Dacca, 3 April (AFP)--Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq said here today that India had agreed to a Bangladesh proposal for a joint survey of the new islands and land masses formed in the Bay of Bengal downstream of the bordering river Hatiyabhangha near the Sundarbans. He was replying to a motion by an opposition member of parliament to call attention to an Indian press report claiming ownership by India over Purbasha near the Sundarbans. The foreign minister said the government was aware of the concern expressed in parliament over the reported Indian claim and said that Bangladesh had already intimated its views to New Delhi. He said that Bangladesh had requested Indian to complete the joint survey at the earliest for appropriate demarcation of such disputed islands in the Bay of Bengal south of the Sundarbans.
[Text] [BK030215 Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 2 Apr 80 BK]

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has called for thorough re-organisation of the country's local bodies with a view to developing them into truly peoples welfare-oriented institutions, reports BSS.

Addressing a conference of the Municipality Chairmen in Dacca on Wednesday the President said in the past our municipalities used to be exploited for political purposes resulting in the utter neglect of public welfare. This trend, he emphasised, has to be shaken off and these institutions must be restructured, reformed and re-organised to meet the changing needs of the people.

Stressing the need for undertaking various development projects, President Zia called for drawing up a master plan for each Pourasava which will reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people. He assured the Chairmen that the Government will extend all possible co-operation to the local bodies to help implement the development schemes.

In this connection, the President said the Government has decided to hand over the country's primary schools to the municipal bodies immediately. He said the Government is also considering the placement of secondary schools under the control of the local government.

President Zia said it has also been decided by the Government to place all Khash fallow lands and derelict ponds under the control of the municipalities. Not an inch of land should remain unutilised, he emphasised.

The President said a ten-day special training course for the municipality Chairmen is being organised very soon and later separate courses for the Commissioners will be arranged. All these measures, he pointed out, are aimed at ensuring proper and effective functioning of the local bodies.

He urged the municipality Chairmen to properly utilise the country's youth and women forces for nation building activities. He also emphasised the need for creating green belt around the municipal areas and develop fishery live-stock farms so that the demand of the local people could be met locally. We want every village to be self-sufficient in food, clothing and other basic needs, he declared.

Referring to the revolutionary programme being implemented in phases, he called upon the municipality Chairmen to effectively organise the people in their areas to actively participate in the drive aimed at doubling food production, eradicating illiteracy and planning population growth.

He also said the facilities of electrification will be extended to all villages by 1987.

Literacy Campaign

Speaking about the literacy campaign now in progress all over the country the President said the municipality authorities can play a significant role in educating the illiterate masses. Explaining the objectives of the Revolution, he said, the nation has got to be self-sufficient in every sphere of national life. We must build up our economy on sound footing so that we may not have to depend on the mercy of others, he declared.

The President warned the possessors of illegal arms and said ruthless action will be taken if they do not surrender those by extended amnesty period.

The Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion and assured the Chairmen that all possible assistance will be given to implement the development works of the local bodies.

Chairmen of the municipalities from all over the country attended the conference and participated in the discussions.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER GIVES DETAILS OF MARRAKESH CONFERENCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Huq returned to Dacca on Wednesday from Marrakesh (Morocco) after attending the second session of the Jerusalem committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference concluded on March 12 last, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at Dacca airport, Prof. Huq described the two-day session of the 14-member committee as "successful" and said that the Committee decided to continue its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem. He said that the committee recommended holding of a special session of the UN General Assembly on the Palestinian question and Jerusalem as soon as possible.

Prof. Huq said that the Marrakesh meeting had decided to hold the third session of the Jerusalem Committee a day before the forthcoming conference of the Islamic Foreign Ministers scheduled to be held in Pakistan capital next month.

Describing the working of the Jerusalem Committee headed by King Hasan of Morocco since its inception as "encouraging." The Foreign Minister said that the Committee had decided to continue its efforts to find a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem.

He said that the Marrakesh meeting reviewed the progress made by the Committee in implementing the objectives of the Islamic Summit at Fez and took note of the unanimous resolution taken by the Security Council on the Middle East question. He described it as an outcome of the work done by the Committee members including Bangladesh which he noted, is a member of the Security Council.

Prof. Shamsul Huq also referred to statements made by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during his recent visits to Middle East countries and said that the French President had clearly recognised the right of self-determination of the Palestinians and also their right to participate in negotiations for peaceful settlement of the problem.

The Foreign Minister said that the Committee meeting took note of the successful holding of elections in Rhodesia and the peaceful transfer of power.

Referring to decisions taken by the meeting, Prof. Huq said that they had also decided to send out groups of members of the Jerusalem Committee to various countries to enlist their support on the Palestinian problem. He said that the proposals to hold a special UN General Assembly session and to enlist the support of the non-Muslim countries were made by Bangladesh and were adopted unanimously.

Dacca Elected to Drafting Body

Prof. Huq said that Bangladesh which had played an active and constructive role during the deliberations of the Committee was elected to the drafting committee along with Morocco, Saudi Arabia and PLO. He said Bangladesh initiatives in the formation of Committees of Ambassadors of Islamic countries in different capitals of non-Muslim states and its efforts in the security council in co-operation with other Islamic and non-aligned nations were well appreciated in the Marrakesh meeting.

Prof. Shamsul Huq after attending the Jerusalem Committee meeting at Marrakesh paid a brief visit to France at the invitation of French Foreign Minister Jean Francois Poncet. During his stay in Paris, the two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on international, regional and bilateral matters.

Talks With French FM

Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Huq said that during his one day stay in Paris, he had wide-ranging discussions with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois Poncet on international, regional and bilateral matters.

Talking to newsmen at the airport after attending the second meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco, Prof. Huq said that he had been to Paris at the special invitation of his French counterpart.

The talks between the two Foreign Ministers were held in extremely cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He said adding that both sides noted with satisfaction the similarity of views on many issues like the Middle-East and the Afghan situation.

On the bilateral side, Prof. Huq said that the French Foreign Minister had given him clear indication of his country's increasing cooperation to Bangladesh.

Referring to cooperation in the field of civil aviation, the Foreign Minister said that he had received assurance from the French Transportation Minister about Bangladesh Biman's landing right in Paris. The issue was hanging for a long time. He said and hoped that the stalemate on the issue would end after his visit with favorable response from the French side.

Prof. Huq said that during the talks the French Foreign Minister lauded the constructive role played by Bangladesh in various international forums. Mr Poncet particularly referred to Bangladesh's efforts in the Security

Council, Islamic Conference, the Commonwealth and the non-aligned movement in promoting the cause of peace and stability. Mr Poncet also assured Mr Huq that France would like to develop close cooperation with Bangladesh and work at closer understanding in various international forums.

During his stay in Paris on March 17, Prof. Huq extended an invitation to his counterpart Mr Jean Francois Poncet and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Stirn to visit Bangladesh. He hoped that the visits would take place in near future.

Prof. Shamsul Huq also said that a French Parliamentary team is expected to visit Bangladesh in near future.

Afghan Issue

Replying to a question on the Afghan issue, Prof. Huq said that both Bangladesh and France held similarity of views on Afghan situation. He said France did not approve of any foreign intervention in any country and had demanded that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Asked if he had talks in Paris on the concept of neutral Afghanistan as proposed by West European countries, Prof. Huq said that the implications of the concept had not been spelt out. EEC countries had supported the concept in principle, he said, adding that the EEC Foreign Ministers had already met the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries and expressed their concern for the prevailing condition in South East and South Asian region.

These countries, the Foreign Minister said, were probably going to play a constructive role in international efforts to find a solution to the problem.

CSO: 4220

ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES REVISED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 80 p 1

[Excerpt] The National Economic Council (NEC) on Wednesday morning approved the Taka 2,329.99 crore revised Annual Development Programme for the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The NEC at a meeting held at the Bangabhaban under the chairmanship of President Ziaur Rahman raised the ADP allocation by Taka 259.99 crore over that of the original Taka 2,070 crore, an increase of 14.33 per cent.

The enhanced allocation was necessary for assigning higher priorities to agricultural inputs distribution programme; gas and oil exploration and distribution programme and some high-priority development projects.

In spite of shortfalls in production of aus aman crops; caused by drought, a GDP growth rate of 6.1 per cent was expected to be attained during the current financial year. This growth rate would be higher than last year's growth rate of 4 per cent. The additional financing of Tk 259.99 crore will be available from mobilization of additional domestic resources and from project aid, the Press release added.

The council stressed the need for enhancing the administrative capability of the Ministries and Divisions to cope with the task of successful implementation of the Second Five-year plan.

CSO: 4220

HOW BANGLADESH PLANS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 27 Mar 80 p 4

[Article by Mohammad A. Hye]

[Text] The countrywide canal digging campaign launched by President Zizur Rahman four months ago as a revolutionary strategy to achieve food self-sufficiency in the next five years promises to exceed the physical targets of the programme.

The response of the people at the grassroot level to contribute voluntary labour to this national water conservancy plan for dry season irrigation has been positive and, in fact, the original programme had to be expanded to accommodate new projects to satisfy people's demands.

Originally, 103 canal digging projects totalling a length of about 500 miles in all the 71 subdivisions of the country were to be completed through voluntary participation of the people during the December-May timeframe. Subsequently, people from different parts of the country especially from the southern and southwestern parts, pressed for inclusion in the programme new schemes in their areas. So the number of the projects went up from 103 to 144 with the length of the canals increasing to 700 miles.

Plans for these irrigation canals were prepared by experts of Bangladesh Water Development Board and approved by the Central Coordination Committee. The programme is being implemented under the personal supervision of the President.

Of the 144 projects, 54 are in Khulna division, 36 in Chittagong Division, 28 in Dacca Division and 26 in Rajshahi Division. Initially, 550,000 acres of land was sought to be brought under winter irrigation but now 700,000 acres would benefit because of the increase in the number of canals.

The programme involves 580 million cubic feet of earthwork for which a workforce of 100,00 to 150,000 men and women from all walks of life is participating daily.

The programme is based on voluntary labour. Only poor and landless people working on these projects are being helped with food under the food for work programme and some cash. The government is spending Tk. 10 million and using 2,500 tons of wheat for the entire programme.

Water is the principal input for our agriculture. There is abundance of it in the rainy season but in the winter months it becomes scarce because of which farmers cannot grow enough winter crops including rice. If abundant water is available the farmers can produce rice, wheat and other crops round the year. It has also been found that winter crops are free from natural hazards like floods and cyclones. Hence the need for massive winter rice wheat cultivation.

The Government of Ziaur Rahman, taking a cue from the traumatic effects of the last years unprecedented drought and the unstable situation in the world grain market, ventured to utilize--in achieving the goal of self-sufficiency in food. In the beginning many doubted the efficacy of the venture. But the subsequent events belied that disbelief. The voluntary mass participation of the people in the canal digging programme proved to be self-sustaining. People's unbounded enthusiasm as monitored from the brisk pace of work going on all around is the sure indication that a vast network of irrigation canals will have dotted the countryside before the onset of the monsoons this year ensuring water for the farmers around the year. One may reasonably hope that it will not be long before the benefits of this giant but pragmatic venture are reaped by the people of Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220

SUGAR INDUSTRY DESCRIBED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 3 Apr 80 p 6

[Article by Haribur Rahman]

[Text] Bangladesh entered the sugar export market two years ago with some surplus only to revert to imports this year. The setback was caused mainly by a sharp decline in the sugarcane acreage a factor that was not taken into consideration by the planners.

In the wake of rise in the prices of rice and jute, cane producers in the mill zones reduced cultivation of sugarcane on some 70,000 acres by shifting to more profitable crops; thereby reducing total sugarcane acreage by over 30 percent during one year. As a result; a number of mills had to cease crushing on account of inadequate supply. Extension of irrigation facilities in the sugarcane producing areas in Rajshahi and Khulna Divisions provided scope for cultivating rice; jute and tobacco on a large scale on lands traditionally used for sugarcane cultivation. This year; also sugarcane acreage has declined to 155,000 acres from last year's 188,000 acres.

In 1977-78, about 175,000 tons of sugar was produced in the country's 15 sugar mills. Production declined in the following year to 130,000 tons. This year (1979-80) over 135,000 tons of sugar is expected to be produced in the country on a much diminished area. Some quantity of sugar will have to be imported this year to meet the domestic demand.

To stem the rot, the government had to act decisively. A serious stock-taking led to the announcement of a new sugar policy in September 1979. The new policy offered a package of incentives to the sugarcane growers including increased price and expanded credit facilities to encourage retention of at least 200,000 acres under cane production. This will ensure production of about 1,80,000 tons of sugar annually.

Other important policy decisions relate to modernising a number of near-absolute mills and intensive research to evolve high-yielding quick-maturing sugarcane seeds.

In 1947, the then East Pakistan inherited only five sugar mills with a total production capacity of 39,000 tons annually. These were established about

50 to 60 years ago. As part of its modernisation plan, the sugar mill at Setabganj in Dinajpur (8,000 tons) is being modernised completely and trial crushing will be conducted during this season. Modernisation of three other mills are under way. When completed, the total installed capacity will go up by over 15,000 tons from present 169,000 tons.

A programme is already under way to increase the per acre yield of sugarcane. Under this programme cane growers are being provided with services for mechanised cultivation, fertilisers, and disease-free seeds and insecticides.

The biggest handicap in cane cultivation in Bangladesh is that it is a long-duration crop that takes about 14 months from planting to harvesting. Intensive efforts are on at the laboratories to evolve a variety which will mature in a shorter period and give increased sugar recovery.

The government's concern is not with increased production alone. Its concern is also to ensure that the entire crop produced in the mill zones is sold to the mills, and not to the middlemen for illegal production of gur (indigenous sugar) which gives poor extraction from the cane. It has therefore enforced a total ban on the manufacture and movement of gur in the mill areas and increased the prices and facilities to induce selling of crop at the mill gates.

Increased cane production will not only save a lot of foreign exchange involved in the imports of sugar, but it is also necessary for some of the new industries based on utilisation of molasses and bagasse. The North Bengal Paper Mills at Paksey (Pabna) and the distillery at Darsana (Kushtia) are dependent on sugarcane.

As part of its long-term plans to increase sugar production in the country, two more sugar mills, one each at Natore (Rajshahi) and Kushtia, will be set up by 1985 under the country's Second Five-Year Plan.

As a cash crop, sugarcane stands next to jute it is the basic raw material for the sugar industry, a subsidiary raw material for chemical plants and a very important source of cash income for its growers.

Two major products are made out of sugarcane-juice-sugar and gur which are important elements of human food in this country. About 350,000 families are dependent on sugarcane cultivation.

Sugar was one of the worst affected industries during the 1971 War of Independence. Five mills remained closed in 1971-72 and production in the remaining 10 mills was nominal about 24,000 tons.

Considering the importance of the sugar industry, the Government took prompt actions for its rehabilitation and development. But the difficulties faced by the industry were so serious that a number of mills could not operate even in 1976-77. Things, however, started looking up from the following year.

The stress now is on producing enough sugar locally to meet the domestic requirement. And this should be possible within a year or two considering the importance being given to this sector of the economy.

IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL GAS STRESSED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 80 pp 5, 6

[Article by A.F.M. Mafizul Islam]

[Text] In Bangladesh approximately 70 per cent of the energy requirements are met by traditional sources. The annual energy supply from these sources, amounts to 200×10^{12} BTU. These sources include cowdung, jute stick, rice straw, rice hulls, bagasse firewood, leaves, etc. Bangladesh is densely populated with her small forest area. For an ecological balance, it requires about 30 per cent of the land to be endowed with forestry. The forest area of Bangladesh occupies only 6 per cent (roughly) of the country's total geographical area. Again, high rate of increase in population and immature cutting of trees caused by high price of fuel have resulted in a fall in the total forest area. On the other hand, with an increase in the "short-stem" variety of paddy due to modern agricultural technology, the amount of straw is also decreasing. The result is that supply sources of traditional energy are rapidly diminishing so much so that a disturbance in the ecological balance is apprehended. Thus the necessity of using commercial energy even in the rural sector is increasing at a faster rate than what is expected to be. It is established that a 30 per cent reduction in traditional sources necessitates about a 100 per cent increase in modern sources.

Among the modern sources, three are currently important: hydropower, coal and natural gas. There is a wider possibility of generation of hydropower from the hilly rivers flowing to the south western part of the country. In the recent past, the Karnafully in Chittagong Hill Tracts has been harnessed to yield 80 MW capacity to which another 50 MW would be added very soon. The same reservoir has the possibility of generation of another 100 MW for peaking purposes. The Brahmaputra in the east zone of the country can generate 400 MW firm capacity out of 1,000 MW peak hydropower by means of a barrage. But all this is a costly and time consuming possibility.

Geological survey of Bangladesh with the assistance of UNDP has explored a huge quantity of coal, amounting to about 700 million tons in the district of Bogra. In terms of heating value it is equivalent to about 2.5 times the proven gas reserve. But it is buried at a depth of 3,000-4,000 feet under

the alluvial soil. Its extraction would require the use of sophisticated, costly and long-term techniques. This is, again, problematic in a country like ours.

Natural gas is abundant in Bangladesh, and it has been established that it is an important and most reliable source of energy. At present about 80 percent of our commercial fuel requirements are met by costly imports, which take away about 52 per cent of our export earnings. Austerity and economic consideration, therefore, demand a quick switch over to our indigenous gas resource.

It was in 1955 that the natural gas in Bangladesh was first discovered. By now 11 gas fields are known, of which 8 are proven present volume of gas amounts to 8.29-9.36 million cft of which presently drained 0.35 per cent only of the recoverable reserves. These reserves are of course sufficiently large for a country like ours.

Table 1

Gas Field and Position of Gas Reserves in Bangladesh			
Gas field	Year of discovery	As of 1st January, 1978	
		Proven	Total Reserve (10 ¹² cft)
1. Sylhet	1955	0.28	0.211
2. Chhatak	1959	0.02	.007
3. Rashidpur	1960	0.49	1.060
4. Habiganj	1962	1.00	1.252
5. Kailastila	1962	0.38	0.600
6. Titas	1962	0.95	2.735
7. Bakrabad	1968	0.74	2.780
8. Senutang	1969	0.03	0.030
9. Begumganj	1976		
10. Muladi	1976	Not yet determined	
11. Kutubdia	1977		
		3.89	8.075

Source: Statistical Year Book of Bangladesh 1979.

It is expected that the gas could be utilised in a number of alternative energy supply systems and processing industries of several decades ahead in Bangladesh. It could be used as fuel in electric power plants. In Bangladesh, generation of electricity by natural gas in 1968-69 was 60,743 million KWHR, and it was 791,853 million KWHR in 1977-78. That means generation of electricity by using natural gas has been increased by 1300 percent (cumulative increase was found to be 412 per cent).

The gas could be used as fuel in its natural form by transporting with the help of pipelines to major consumer centres. Alternatively, it could be liquefied and transported as liquified Natural Gas (LNG) for subsequent reconversion to gas in the consumer centres. As in power plant, gas is

increasingly used in fertilizer industries and other industries, and also in commercial firms and domestic purposes. Total industrial consumption, in 1977-78 was about 95 per cent and domestic consumption 3.64 per cent.

The gas in Bangladesh is found to be of very high quality having methane content ranging from 95 per cent-99 per cent. Thus the gas could be converted into methanol which is a very valuable raw material in fertilizer and other petro-chemical products.

This methanol makes it not only an important industrial chemical raw material of the country, but also a very valuable goods. Again, fertilizer and petro-chemical products have both domestic and foreign markets. Foreign exchange can also be earned by exporting natural gas by pipeline system or in the form of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

The use of gas fuel has also certain implication in other parts of the energy supply system. Expanded use of gas as fuel will result in a reduction of the use of fuel oil, while its use in the form of methanol could significantly reduce the demand for distillates such as motor spirit, diesel oil and kerosene.

Bangladesh is rich in natural gas resources, and known gas reservoirs could satisfy the demand for energy economy of the country for about 250 years. But its exploitation for the purpose of different alternative uses is still costly and problematic. Planners and experts should come forward to see the problems and find out the solutions.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER DETAILS MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ASSAM PROBLEMS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 19--In a somewhat strong reaction to the threat of a blockade of Assam by the West Bengal unit of the Congress (I), Mrs Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that her Government was opposed to "any step that will increase tension or aggravate matters."

She told Mr Mukunda Mandal (CPI-M) that the Government had seen newspaper reports of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress (I)'s plans but "I do not have further information on it."

The question-hour in the course of which this statement was made by the Prime Minister, yielded another statement of some importance by the Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh.

He told Mrs Gita Mukherjee (CPI-M) that there was no basis for the reported statement by Mr Nibaran Bora, of the Purbanchaliya Lok Parishad, that "under foreign pressure" 1951 would be accepted as the base year for the deportation of foreigners in Assam. "That statement is totally baseless and we are firm that no foreign power will be allowed to intervene."

He said that when Mr Bora had met him in New Delhi during the second round of talks on the Assam situation, it had been agreed that no Press statement would be made by anyone. The government had, however, stuck to its commitment and "not given out any reaction" to Mr Bora's statement.

To a question by Mr Mandal as to how long the agitation would be allowed to continue the Minister of State for Home, Mr Yogendra Makwana, replied that the Government was taking different measures. It was also negotiating with the students and others, but it was difficult to say when the issue would be settled.

The main question asked by Mr Mandal was whether some states had been affected by the agitation on the foreigners issue and whether the Government considered the measures taken adequate.

Mr Makwana said: "Measures initiated by the Government of India to deal with various aspects of the problem include: deployment of additional forces on

the Assam-Bangladesh border, strengthening of vigilance on the Meghalaya-Tripura sector of the border, strengthening of the riverine police force, and introduction of identity cards with photographs for all voters in Assam and elsewhere in the north-eastern region."

Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, a West Bengal Congress leader, yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, suggesting that the formula evolved by the Centre to settle the "foreigners" problem in Assam on the basis of 1971 as the "cut-off" point--though even this had several "serious lacunae" be firmly implemented.

The memorandum was prepared by the West Bengal Youth Congress, the West Bengal Chhatra Parishad (Mahajati Sadan), the West Bengal Cultural and Social Council and the Gana Sanskriti Sansad.

The Finance Minister, Mr P. Venkataraman, said in the Rajya Sabha today that the Centre was considering setting up a petrochemical unit in Assam.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN INTERVIEWED ON AFGHAN SITUATION

GF311225 Manana GULF DAILY NEWS in English 31 Mar 80 p 10 GF

[Article by Soman Baby]

[Text] India has had talks recently with a number of neighbouring countries.

There have also been discussions with major powers and many other governments on developments in Afghanistan.

There was an impression that India was "soft" on the Soviet Union over the Afghan question.

But in an interview Mr. H. K. Mahajan, Indian ambassador to Bahrain, made it clear that "India's policy is neither pro-Soviet nor pro-American-- it is pro-India."

"We feel that as the Soviet Union has given assurances that it would withdraw from Afghanistan, it is more practical to seek the creation of suitable circumstances consistent with our principles within which the assurances can be honoured than to proceed on the path of confrontation and pressure to get them to back down," he added.

"India has always taken a principled stand on questions such as Afghanistan and Kampuchea which involve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent states.

"We have urged the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea," said Mr. Mahajan.

"Simple condemnation is not the only way to solve the problem. We have, therefore, been active in seeking constructive solutions.

"On a recent visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, Mr. Mahajan said that "the Soviet foreign minister told us that the Soviet troops will be withdrawn as soon as the causes that brought them there cease to exist.

"He denied that the Soviet Union had any intention of obtaining access to warm water ports, or control over oil sources in the Gulf. He also denied that the Soviet Union wished to intervene either in Iran or Pakistan."

Mr. Mahajan added that India held the view that the position of the Soviet Union provides a basis from which further steps can be taken towards resolving the situation in Afghanistan.

"We have had consultations with a large number of governments. The principles outlined in the Indo-French declaration, issued on the occasion of the French President's recent visit to India, appear to provide a good basis for moving forward.

"However, the situation should be somewhat stabilised before we undertake precise political initiatives."

Mr. Mahajan said there had been no shift in India's stand on Afghan question. It has always embodied three points.

We do not accept that there should be interference or intervention in the affairs of one country by one other country by the use of armed force.

We are against efforts to destabilise existing regimes by interferences or subversion from outside.

We are against destabilising our region by excessive introduction of arms, the entry of great power influence and resultant confrontation.

CSO: 4220

TRIPURA NAXALITE LEADER REPORTED KILLED IN CLASH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Mar 80 p 19

[Text] Agartala, March 19. Last month's police-Naxalite encounter at Huruah village in Dharamnagar sub-division in which seven young men were shot marked the end of the colourful career of a Santhal youth, Gobinda Teli, who headed the movement in Tripura.

Even after seizing documents, the police are not sure if the Tripura Naxalites had links with their Bangladesh counterparts. But it is admitted by all that they work in close liaison with their comrades in West Bengal.

State and Central intelligence agencies are trying to find out if these elements in Tripura have any contacts with extremist tribal elements in the north-eastern region.

The genesis of the Naxalite movement in the state according to a senior state government official, can be traced to pro-Charu Mazumdar sympathisers who organised themselves in Dharamnagar sub-division in 1969 under the banner of Biplabi Yuba Sangha. Mr. Subrata Baul and Mr. Biman Dutta hailing from West Bengal were at the head of the movement. Inspiration also came from an extremist faction of West Bengal, which found temporary sanctuary here.

Recruiting of Cadres

Mr. Sunder Mukherjee, a youth of Manipuri origin who graduated from Calcutta University, and Mr. Gobinda Teli, son of a tea garden labourer, were attracted to the Sangha and later became its acknowledged leaders.

They started recruiting cadres from among the youths in isolated pockets of Udaipur, Amarapur and Dharamnagar. In course of time, they succeeded in building up the nucleus of the movement.

Some time in 1972, the party was vertically split--one wing owing allegiance to Charu Mazumdar and the other swearing by Ashim Chatterjee, a few cases of murder and dacoity were reported in 1972-73. Those killed included a chowkidar, a sub-inspector of police and a jotedar.

In an encounter with the police in May, 1973, Nripen Chandra and Putul Das, two Naxalite leaders, were killed. The police arrested some members of the Ashim Chatterjee faction. This encounter was a setback to the movement and made the group lie low till 1974.

The Naxalites again came to the limelight when the CPM-Janata coalition government came into being here in 1977. The then home minister, Mr. Nripen Chakrabarty, now the chief minister of Tripura, took the initiative in withdrawing all cases against them. He even went to the extent of securing the release of those who were in detention in Bangladesh jails. With the release of the leaders and withdrawal of all cases, they lost no time in regrouping with renewed enthusiasm.

Widespread Terrorism

The provincial central committee of the CPI(ML) was set up here in the first week of July, 1977. This was followed by widespread acts of terrorism. An 81-year-old man owning a small piece of land was branded as jotedar and liquidated. Afar Ali, a party member was brutally killed on the charge of violating party discipline.

Some time in 1978, another split occurred among the cadres. This was the direct result of the split in the provincial central committee. While Sunder Mukherjee opted for the Satya Narayan Singh faction, Govinda Teli switched over to the Benod Mishra group. The latter group is pro-Charu Mazumdar but opposed to the Lin Piao group.

Teli soon organised a network of extremists at Nadiapur, Huruah, Kalacherra, Sanicherra, Gobindapur and Kurti and other villages in north Dharamnagar.

He also set up a Krishak Mukti Sangram committee in an attempt to help the farmers fight the oppression of landlords and jotedars. The committee never took to violence though Teli continued to indulge in acts of violence.

In 1979, his group was involved in two dacoities, looting of two rifles from the forest office at Bagpasha and raiding the police camp at Ichailalcherra. This group was also implicated in two dacoities committed the same night in Dharamnagar.

On January 11, 1980, they raided the police camp at Nadiapur when the police were on patrol duty. In the ensuing encounter, four of the raiders were arrested. One of them, Ranjit Debnath, was hospitalised. While Debnath was nursing his wounds in the hospital under police surveillance, his comrades led an attack on the hospital and got him released by overpowering the police constable on duty. His gun was also snatched away.

Two-Hour Battle

In the February 25 encounter at Nadiapur, the Naxalites fired 50 rounds in reply to 500 rounds by the police. The exchange of fire lasted two hours.

That day, the Naxalites had been in session at the house of Borada Swabdamar, located on a hillock. The house had an 18-inch thick mud wall. Huruah village is 14 km away from Dharamnagar sub-divisional headquarters.

On receipt of information of the conclave, the police assisted by CRP personnel encircled the hillock. The police claim that the Naxalites refused to surrender, though they were warned four times.

This incident coming on the heels of the split in the group is bound to deal a severe blow to the Naxalite movement in the state.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN MINISTER'S TOUR SHOWS COUNTRY AS HONEST BROKER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Mar 80 pp 1, 16

[Text] New Delhi, March 19--Mr Narasimha Rao's just concluded tour abroad as India's External Affairs Minister has coincided with the emergence of this country as a catalyst in efforts to secure peace in the region. India has, during the past two months, been able to establish its credentials as an honest broker, among those involved in the conflict in the region, particularly in Afghanistan.

The USA and the Soviet Union have come a long way from the positions they took at one time or the other during the last 10 weeks regarding India's role in the Afghan crisis. They have obviously come to accept the validity of the Indian approach to defusing the crisis even though they may not share India's perceptions of the crisis. That India does not want the problem in Afghanistan to be frozen is widely understood.

The picture that has emerged since the day when India was accused of backing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is drastically changed. For a country so strategically located in the crisis-ridden region, India's response has been fairly measured. It has taken into account the country's national and regional interests. It has simultaneously aimed at controlling any response that might add to the tensions. It has also upheld the nation's right to live in peace and independence free of the fear of interference.

The Indian approach has created an atmosphere wherein it has become possible for peace proposals to be mooted. There is a lessening of sabre-rattling on all sides. The days when India was accused of being totally pro-Soviet on the Afghan issue are well forgotten. It is also understood that India by herself cannot persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan, a view that was given much currency by Pakistan's General Zia.

The Americans, too, have since realized that far from being pro-Soviet, the Indian stance may even offer a way out. Hence, the relevance of the "atmosphere"--in which it is now possible for the EEC countries, headed by Britain, to talk in terms of a peaceful solution or one which allows Mr Brezhnev to say that the Soviet Union would withdraw her troops if certain basic requirements are fully met.

There have been other factors as well which have contributed to a lessening of tension. For instance, while the assertive military stance of the USA continues public attention on Afghanistan in that country has since got diffused. The differences between the American and West European assessments of the Afghan crisis have become sharper. The French President's visit to the Gulf States and his observations there have led to a crystallization of the European approach to the Afghan crisis. The British-EEC proposals, which were formally mooted in Moscow and the shift in Pakistan's position on the question of securing massive arms aid (the country has retained that option even as it dismisses the U.S. aid as "peanuts") has by itself opened other options.

The disturbed internal political situation in Pakistan may also have caused the USA to have second thoughts on giving massive arms aid to that country. These and some other elements have contributed to the creation of an atmosphere which could well lead to the defusing of the crisis.

Against this background, the Foreign Minister's visit to New York, his talks there with Ministers attending the meetings of the Group of 77 and the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr Kurt Waldheim, followed by talks in Paris with Mr Poncet the French Foreign Minister, with Mr Genscher, the West German Minister, in Bonn, and his talks in Rome cannot but have been helpful in strengthening the search for a peaceful solution. Mr Rao must have returned home with a comprehensive assessment of how the international community is reacting to the developments in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

During his talks with the Foreign Ministers and others at New York and in the three European capitals, he must have explained the Indian view of the crisis in the region based on India's own assessment following a series of visits to New Delhi by leaders and emissaries of many countries and visits to Foreign capitals by Indian Emissaries.

Mr Eric Gonsalves' U.S. visit, which followed closely the visit here by President Carter's special envoy, Mr Clark Clifford, apparently helped create a better understanding in Washington of the Indian view.

The likely visit here later this year of the Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance, who is expected to attend a meeting of the Indo-American Joint Commission should help the two countries to appreciate each other's position even better.

This, coupled with the firm enunciation of India's view of the Afghan crisis during the visit here of Mr Gromyko and the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Arkhipov make for an atmosphere wherein India may still be able to provide the kind of help, in collaboration with others, that could eventually de-escalate the crisis in Afghanistan and also help restore peace and stability in the region.

UNI adds: Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had spoken of the importance West Germany attaches to its relations with India, saying that New Delhi will take precedence in the Federal Republic's dealings with the countries

affected by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. This would not change because of Bonn's decision to double its economic assistance to Pakistan.

Our Delhi Office reports: A seminar on the Afghan crisis, held in New Delhi today arrived at the consensus that now was the time for India to demand an unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Indian stand had "elements of generating enormous pressures on the Soviet Union and a strong Indian Government was in the position of ensuring that Afghanistan did not become a battlefield." The seminar was attended by about 80 scholars.

CSO: 4220

NUTRITION WORKSHOP EXAMINES FLAWS IN PROGRAM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, at the instance of the Union Ministry of Social Welfare, organized a three-day Second Regional Workshop on the Special Nutrition Programme in Calcutta. It was held at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, from Monday.

Representatives from the Centre and the State Ministries of Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands participated with representatives of international agencies like UNICEF, CARE, WFP and USAID.

The main objectives of the workshop were to review the operation of the programme in different States, to identify and discuss the problems faced in the implementation of the programme and suggest measures to overcome these.

Inaugurating the workshop, Mr Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister, said poverty was a national problem but a man-made one. It could be solved by political commitment and public cooperation. Assuring all possible help to the programme, he pointed out the usefulness of such workshops and said that the recommendations made by them would be carefully studied and implemented.

From status papers presented by various States, it was revealed that adequate measures had not yet been taken to implement the programme. However, different States were implementing it through various Government departments or with voluntary agencies and achieving different degrees of success.

In all the states, it was found that special nutrition units lacked even the minimum of physical infrastructure, especially in tribal areas, and in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Speakers at the workshop urged a nationally defined nutrition policy to give the project due recognition. The Centre was urged to ask the States to take up immunization schemes linked with the project in at least four or five blocks on an experimental basis.

The scope of the programme should not be restricted to mere distribution of food supplements, they said, but should be substantially enhanced to function as a forum to disseminate health and nutrition education.

EFFECTS OF ALUMINUM SHORTAGE ON POWER INDUSTRY EXAMINED

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Mar 80 p 8

[Text] India appeared to have become nearly self-sufficient in aluminum in 1968-69 and imports were marginal until 1976-77. At one time the industry produced at more than 100 per cent of installed capacity but the rate has plunged down to less than 60 per cent in the current financial year. With more than 321,000 tonnes of capacity, the output in 1979-80 is estimated at less than 200,000 tonnes. This would leave a gap of nearly 135,000 tonnes this year, following an upward revision of demand in the wake of the programme for rapid expansion of electricity generation and distribution. Unlike as in the United States and West Europe, where the power industry accounts for about 11 per cent of the aluminium consumption, this sector in India uses more than 50 per cent of the metal annually available. About 90,000 tonnes of imports had already been made or contracted for by the end of last year. The spurt in consumption has rendered meaningless many of the presumptions in the (now defunct) Sixth Five-Year Plan and plans for new installations would add a meagre 20,000 tonnes of capacity in the next two years. Even if the power situation improves during this year, imports in the range of 100,000 tonnes may be needed in 1980-81. The international market price of the metal is around RS.17,000 a tonne, against less than Rs.10,000 a tonne in India, excluding excise duty. Imports would thus cost anything up to Rs.200 crores, if the quantities needed are available easily for purchase abroad. In the circumstances the Union Government has no choice but to import and it has announced its intention to bring in 75,000 tonnes. Otherwise, the entire power development plan would be on the rocks.

There is an abundance of bauxite in the country, but as in many other industries the planners' projections of demand have gone haywire. Controls, levy prices, subsidies to State electricity boards and imports have failed to solve the problem of shortages. All-out efforts to obtain increased outputs from the domestic plants have been stymied because of competing demands for the assignment of the scarce supplies of electricity. Aluminium is extremely power intensive, needing up to 20,000 units of electricity to make one tonne. Concessional rates have traditionally been negotiated for aluminium plants and the producers allege that those in authority in the various States have deliberately cut down supplies because of the comparatively low charges realised.

One major programme under discussion in the non-ferrous sector is a vast complex in Orissa for which a memorandum of understanding was signed with France in January this year. Negotiations have taken place with the Soviet Union for the exploitation of bauxite resources in Andhra Pradesh. Both these projects envisage export of alumina. There is need to change this concept so that more finished metal will be produced within the country. This would call for a dynamic effort to overcome the infra-structural lags, mainly in power generation. It is indeed a vicious circle because aluminium has replaced copper in India for the manufacture of cables and conductors. Expansion of the aluminium industry will have a vital bearing on the growth of the power generation and distribution.

CSO: 4220

KERALA OPPOSES NEW DELHI CONTROL OF POWER SUPPLY

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 20 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Trivandrum, March 19. As the two-week long budget session of the newly constituted sixth Kerala Legislative Assembly commenced here yesterday, treasury benches seized the first opportunity to make it clear that inroads into the State's autonomy and rights by the Centre will be resisted.

Minister for Electricity R. Balakrishna Pillai said that the LDF Government in the State had already informed the Centre of its strong opposition to the contemplated move to bring generation and distribution of electricity as a Central subject. He wanted both the ruling parties and those in the opposition rise above narrow party considerations to jointly frustrate the move.

Answering a call-attention motion by CPM member Mr Raghavan on the subject, Home Minister T. K. Ramakrishnan assured the House that the Left Democratic Front Government stood committed to "effectively combat and firmly putdown" RSS deprivations. The whole of the State's northern-most district Cannanore, and several panchayats in Trichur district, where, according to the Minister, RSS violence appeared particularly concentrated, had been brought under strict police vigilance. Military type drills and carrying of weapons in the open remained prohibited for two months in the disturbed areas, the Minister said.

Mr Raghavan contended that since the advent of the Cong-I rule at the Centre, RSS violence and attacks on political opponents had become a daily occurrence throughout the State, and in this, they had the support of the Opposition Cong-I in the State.

Listed for the conservation and adoption of the budget session are the legislative measures relating to the State takeover of the power supply in Kottayam municipality from a private agency which had been doing it for the last 50 years under an agreement involving the erstwhile Government of Travancore Mahraj, revocation of clause six in the Land Reforms Act that gave legal sanction to transactions of tenancies since 1964 which in turn will help restore holdings alienated as a result of the gift deed bill to their rightful owners, and others.

The budget for 1980-81 is to be presented by the Minister for Finance K. M. Mani (Kerala Congress) on Friday.

After adopting the vote on accounts for the first four months of the new financial year the session is to be adjourned on 2 April as per the present schedule announced.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

BRIEFS

TIES WITH ITALIAN COMMUNISTS--New Delhi, March 19--The Italian Communist Party has sought from the CPI(M)--which the latter has accepted--party-to-party fraternity at the official level. Mr Guillino Prajetta, member of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, along with Mr Carlo Gaulfi of the Institute of Economic Growth in Italy, held talks with the CPI(M) leaders--Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Mr B.T. Ranadive--recently. This is the first time that the Italian Communists will have an official-level relationship with the CPI(M). The Communist Party of the Soviet Union has also conveyed its desires, though not directly and officially to have an official-level fraternal relationship with the CPI(M), Mr B. T. Ranadive said on Monday. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Mar 80 p 6]

CSO: 4220

PUNJAB COUNCIL OF ADVISORS TO BE EXPANDED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 80 p 1

[Text]

SANJIVAL, March 9: The Council of Advisors to the Punjab Governor will be expanded in the near future, the Punjab Governor, Lt. Gen. Saeed Khan, told newsmen here today.

The Governor said that a panel of competent Advisors was already working for the service of people in the Province. However, more persons belonging to all walks of life, including Councilors, industrialists, lawyers and journalists, would also be taken as Advisors on his Council. This, he added, was being done for people's participation in Government affairs. He said that the main object of his visit to different parts of the Province frequently was not political. These tours aimed at acquainting him with the people's genuine problems, particularly in development field, and find ways to solve them on the spot, according to available resources, for public welfare. The Governor made it clear that the Government had not withdrawn concessional subsidy on fertilisers. Its price had been increased due to unavoidable circumstances, he added. The recent rise in prices of oil at international level was also one of the factors in

fertiliser price increase, he added. He said that the Government was well aware of the cultivators' problems and wheat price would be enhanced to some extent at the time of wheat procurement from the next Rabi crop. Similarly, the prices of other commodities such as rice, cotton, sugarcane, maize and gram should also be enhanced from the sowing season, he added.

Replying to a question, the Governor said that there was already surplus in flour mills in this zone and the Government would not grant permission for new flour mills in Lahore Zone. However, he advised the parties interested to set up such mills in D.G. Khan and Muzaffargarh Districts.

Lt. Gen. Saeed Khan said that the country would become self-sufficient in wheat from the next rabi crop. Govt. efforts and recent rains have brightened prospects for a bumper rabi crop. He appreciated that the zamindars had shown great interest in modern methods for the development of agriculture, especially the use of improved seeds, fertilisers and other inputs. He said

special attention was being paid to the improvement of fisheries in the Punjab. Fishery ponds would be set up under the auspices of Chaud Tara Club in all villages and the well planned scheme would be implemented shortly, he added.

EDITORIAL ADVISES RETURN OF SHAH TO IRAN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Mar 80 p 4

[Editorial: "The Fugitive Shah"]

[Text]

The fugitive from Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was smuggled out of Panama on Sunday just a day before Iran was to institute formal proceedings with the Panamanian government for his extradition to Teheran. He was flown with his family to Cairo on board a special aircraft of the Evergreen International Company—an American enterprise. The deposed Shah now appears to be at the end of his odyssey in quest of a stable haven of refuge. (There had already been a standing offer from President Sadat who was willing to accommodate the runaway monarch). It is almost obvious that arrangements for his last minute flight to Egypt could not have been made without the connivance of Washington which had got rid of the man in the face of mounting indignation of the Iranians over America's unwillingness to send him back to Teheran to face trial there for his long catalogue of crimes.

That, however, does not seem to have convinced the former Shah that he still enjoys President Carter's abiding interest in his welfare despite Mr. Brzezinski's glib statement that he had voluntarily chosen to go to Egypt after American officials had discussed several options with him "which did not exclude the option of obtaining medical assistance in the United States." According to Musa Sabry, the Editor-in-Chief of the Cairo Daily 'Al-Akhbar', the CIA had allegedly plotted to poison Reza Pahlavi in a bid to ring down the curtain on the protracted drama of the American diplomats held in Teheran. Even if the information was not wholly true, the ex-ruler of Iran had accepted it because he was sure the CIA had convinced senior Iranian army officers loyal to him that it would be better to have him liquidated before his exile came to an end. This is also evidenced from the deposed Shah's somewhat irate reply to a question in the course of an interview on CBS television. Asked whether he had been disappointed by the Carter administration in recent days, he is said to have retorted: "It is a political question that I am not ready to answer at all."

America's optimism that the former Shah's departure from Panama was not expected to complicate efforts to secure the release of American hostages is manifestly ill-founded. A spokesman of their captors has categorically stated that the detainees would be set free only if the former Monarch and his wealth were returned to Iran. This has been Iran's consistent stand ever since the U.S. Embassy in Teheran was occupied and the hostages held captive by Iranian students. There is no apparent reason to believe that the hide-and-seek tactics employed by Washington would in any way help to soften Iran's attitude. It was obvious right from the beginning that Iran's efforts to get their man extradited would somehow be frustrated by the U.S. And now that Reza Pahlavi is in the safe hands of America's avowed friends, the last chance, altogether beyond the pale of possibility.

The ex-Shah may be in "safe hands" but his asylum in Egypt will further sour the relations of the host-country with Iran. This may take any shape in the days ahead. Already, Teheran has erupted with protest rallies and angry slogans, such as : " Traitor, how long will you hide from God's justice?" The Arab world, may now throw its full weight behind Iran's revolutionary leaders who are bent upon getting back the deposed monarch and his ill-gotten wealth. The world will anxiously watch the new turn of events. Cairo will be well advised to hand over this arch-criminal to Iran and let him face his inevitable nemesis.

CSO: 4220

NEED TO RESCHEDULE NATION'S DEBTS EXPRESSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Mar 80 p 4

[Editorial: "Question of Rescheduling"]

[Text] There are clear indications that the aid-to-Pakistan consortium would, after all, agree to allow Islamabad debt rescheduling facility when it meets in June to consider the economic requirements of this country. Various aid Club members including Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada and France have already expressed their willingness to help Pakistan on this score if the US brought about a qualitative change in its attitude on the question of debt-rescheduling. The US on its part appears to have started giving a second look to its policy. In a paper recently submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by the State Department, the US administration has indicated its intention to tackle the issue of rescheduling with other creditors, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The paper says that in order to help strengthen Pakistan, the US Administration plans to propose a legislation which would authorize it to extend certain types of assistance to Pakistan in spite of the American non-proliferation laws.

The fact is that Pakistan has reached the end of its economic tether; if its request for debt rescheduling is again rejected, it would be well nigh impossible to meet its next debt servicing deadline. Two-thirds of Pakistan's debt servicing, close to one billion dollars is on official loans while the balance goes into repayment of short-term commercial loans. In June 1978 Pakistan had requested for debt rescheduling of 250 million dollars a year for a four-year cycle from July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1982. The aid Club turned down this request. Now Pakistan is pleading for rescheduling of 400 million dollars a year for a five-year cycle beginning July 1980.

During the past two months we have received high powered delegations from Japan, Germany, Britain, the US, the IMF and the World Bank who have been briefed on the extent of our economic requirements. Pakistan has told these delegations that she not only needs rescheduling facility but also hopes that the bulk of old officially channelled credits would be converted

into grants in terms of the UNCTAD consensus on the issue for the MSA nations. With regard to our immediate aid needs, a figure of 2 billion dollars has been mentioned.

Of the eight billion dollars outstanding debt, Pakistan owes over two billion dollars to the US, over 600 million to Germany and 500 million to Japan. Among these leading creditors, the US alone has refused to concede that Pakistan is in dire need of concessional aid and rescheduling facility. In fact, it went so far as to influence the decisions of other Club members who were willing to come to Pakistan's rescue. Washington made it known that it was penalizing Pakistan for ignoring its non-proliferation policy. Now it seems that the US would like to ignore this policy following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. According to the State Department paper, the "interplay between the US administration's political and security interests in South Asia and its vital nonproliferation goals" comes at a time "when our political interests in this region are more in evidence than they have been in years, and our security interests have been directly challenged by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan." While Pakistan does not wish to be involved in the global tussle of the super powers, it would surely welcome a change in the collective attitude of the aid Club members towards its economic needs.

CSO: 4220

SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

Moscow NARODY AZII I AFRIKI in Russian No 6, 1979 signed to press
6 Nov 79 pp 79-86

[Article by Yu. V. Gankovskiy: "Social Structure of the Population of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan"]

[Text] Study of the social structure of society in developing countries is attracting increasing attention on the part of Soviet and foreign investigators. Analysis of the social structure of the population and those changes which are taking place in it is essential in order objectively to assess the thrust and results of the socioeconomic, political and cultural development of a given country (or region) and to elucidate its specific features and significance of the various factors influencing it.

This brief paper contains an analysis of the social structure of the population of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).

According to the figures in reference and other literature, the total area of the NWFP, including the so-called "tribal strip," is approximately 101,700 square kilometers (estimate). It is divided (1974) into four regions: Peshawar (administrative districts -- Peshawar, Mardan and Kohat); Malakand (districts -- Chitral, Dir and Swat); Dera Ismail Khan (districts -- Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu); Hazara (districts -- Abbottabad, Mansehra, and Kohistan). The "Tribal Strip" is subdivided administratively into seven agencies: Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzay, Kurram, Northern Waziristan, and Southern Waziristan. According to the figures of the 1972 census, the population of this territory was approximately 10,909,000 (2,689,000 of whom resided in the "tribal strip"). The average population density is 107 persons per square kilometer. The Peshawar and Mardan districts are the most densely populated (428 and 388 persons per square kilometer respectively). Chitral contains the lowest population density -- 15 persons per square kilometer. In an ethnic breakdown the population of the NWFP consists of Pushtuni (8,095,000, 2,654,000 of whom live in the "tribal strip"), Punjabi (2,383,000), Urdu-speaking settlers from Northern and Western India and their descendants (154,000), and members of small ethnic groups speaking the Dard languages (Chitrali, Kohistani, Shin and others, a total of 138,000 persons).¹

The aftereffects of 100 years of colonialist rule have not yet been eliminated in the NWFP, which negatively affects the character of this region's economy and the social structure of the local society and its gainfully employed population. In spite of the fact that capitalism has become the principal system in the most highly developed districts (Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat), on the whole diversity and multiplicity of structure are characteristic of the socioeconomic system of this province (as a consequence of nonuniformity of development of bourgeois relations).²

A strong barter system is retained in the economy (especially in the "tribal strip"); precapitalist methods and forms of toiler exploitation have not been eliminated; the tenacity of backward production relations and the strong influence of the lowest forms of capital are inhibiting the growth of labor productivity and level of accumulation. A graphic picture of the economic backwardness of the NWFP is presented by official figures on per capita annual income: in 1969 it was only 360 rupees,³ or 75 U.S. dollars, with the bulk of this income generated in the subsistence, small-scale commodity producing and small-scale capitalist sectors of the economy. Nor did per capita annual income increase appreciably in the 1970's.

Two thirds of the gainfully employed population (exceeding 3.2 million persons in the NWFP and the "tribal strip") are employed in agriculture, which generates approximately 40% of the region's GNP. According to figures for 1975, only 552,000 persons were employed in industrial production (in which cottage industry still plays an important role) and construction, or 17% of the gainfully employed population, while their share of the region's GNP did not exceed 18%.⁴

There are only two cities in the NWFP with a population in excess of 100,000 -- Peshawar (273,000 according to the 1972 census) and Mardan (109,000). Approximately 780,000 persons were residing in 33 urban-type communities (or 7.6% of the population of the NWFP and "tribal strip").⁵ Actually all large cities and towns are located in administrative districts (the only urban-type communities in the "tribal strip" are Landi Kotal in the Khyber Agency and Parachinar in Kurram).

The most numerous toiler detachment in this province is the peasantry. A portion (approximately 16.4% of all persons employed in agriculture) are landless farm laborers. They are most numerous in the Mardan district, where they comprise 55%, that is, more than half of the economically active rural population, while in other districts they do not exceed 5% of the rural population. Predominant among independent farmers are owners of landholdings up to one hectare in size (approximately 330,000 persons); 48% of all farms involve as a rule subsistence or semisubsistence farming. More than half of all these farmers (28.4% of all households) own tiny plots of less than 0.4 hectare and are for all practical purposes farm laborers who happen to own a plot of land.

The next largest rural population groups are the leaseholders (approximately 215,000 persons; 31.5% of all households) and persons farming their

own plots and at the same time leased land (approximately 140,000 persons; 20.5% of all households). The average size of leaseholder plots is 1.7 hectares per household, with 3.3 hectares per household of "owner-lessees."

The rural elite (owners of from 10 to 20 hectares) total approximately 25,000 persons (3.5% of all households); they hold not less than one sixth of all cultivated land, that is, twice as much as all owners of plots of 1 hectare and smaller. Wealthy villagers control the bulk of farm credit (in the 1960's more than 70% of the peasants of the Peshawar region and more than 50% of peasants in the Der Ismail Khan region were burdened by debt⁶) and village commerce.

As a result of agrarian reforms carried out in the NWFP after 1947, property differentiation within the local peasantry was intensified, and processes of formation of classes and social strata characteristic of the bourgeois society were accelerated. During the 1950's the number of landless farm laborers almost quadrupled; during that same time the number of landowners declined by 25%. Bankrupt peasants swelled the ranks of hired farm laborers and migrants to the country's major cities. Large semi-proletarian and urban lumpen strata formed from their ranks. At the same time there was a decline in the number of lessees without rights (or, as they are called, "lessees by charity," who prior to the reforms possessed no rights to the plots they farmed), since now they had been given certain guarantees against being driven off the land. Almost all hereditary leaseholders who had been making cash lease payments (particularly numerous in the Hazara region) made full purchase of their plots of land. The peasant campaign to limit land ownership by landed proprietors and to reduce taxes and land rent payments became intensified after 1971. Peasant actions frequently assumed the form of armed rebellion.⁷

The next largest toiler group in the NWFP, after the peasants, are the so-called independent workers in nonagricultural sectors of the economy -- they total more than 700,000 in this province. They are highly heterogeneous in a social respect. More than half are employed in cottage crafts (manufacture of fabrics, footwear, crockery, weapons, etc); at least 250,000 are in retail trade, while the remainder are in other areas of the service industry. A large percentage of these independent workers are involved in precapitalist economic forms, and only the upper stratum has been transformed (or is in the process of transformation) into petit bourgeois.

Formation of an industrial proletariat in the NWFP began only a few decades ago. In 1947 there were 27 enterprises of qualifying industry (that is, enterprises employing more than 20 hired workers), with a total work force of 1,500. By 1968 the number of such enterprises had risen to 174 (27,400 workers); by 1975 the number of enterprises of qualifying industry had increased to 302 (45,400 workers).⁸ The majority of the qualifying enterprises and correspondingly the majority of industrial workers in the province were in Peshawar district.⁹ Several large

enterprises (sugar mills and tobacco factories) have been built in Mardan district. The largest detachment of the Pushtuni worker class are the textile workers (approximately 40% of all proletarians); these are followed by food and gustatory industry workers (30%).

In addition to qualifying enterprises, there were approximately 3,000 small industrial establishments in the NWFP (each employing less than 20 workers), representing a total labor force of approximately 30,000 hired workers; 80% of these enterprises were established in the 1960's. Two thirds of the non-qualifying enterprises were located on the territory of administrative districts.¹⁰

Worker class living standards (especially unskilled workers) remain low, which is connected in particular with a steady rise in the cost of living. A high rate of labor turnover is observed. Labor turnover as well as retained persisting ties with the village for a considerable percentage of the Pushtuni proletariat are slowing the formation of permanent proletarian cadres and impeding organizational and political unification of the worker class.

Formation of an intelligentsia in the NWFP began in the first decades of the 20th century; at the present time it consists primarily of persons from affluent strata of society: well-to-do peasants, merchants and artisans, landowners, the bourgeoisie, and members of the clergy. The intelligentsia totals approximately 100,000. The largest segment comprises low-level public servants and employees of private firms (almost 60,000 persons). They are followed by teachers at elementary and secondary schools and higher educational institutions (approximately 15,000), medical personnel, and persons of the so-called free professions. The intelligentsia elite, who are comparatively well paid in terms of conditions in the NWFP (engineers, lawyers, doctors, college and university professors) consists chiefly of people who have received a university education outside the province -- in Karachi, Lahore, as well as abroad, in the United States and England.

In the colonial era the local intelligentsia formed almost exclusively from persons from the administrative districts (for example, in 1951 there were only 8 persons in the Malakand Agency with a higher education and 47 persons with completed secondary education).¹¹ Today a stratum of intelligentsia has also developed in the "tribal strip," although numerically still small, to be true.¹² In the mid-1970's there were approximately 60,000 young people attending college or in the higher grades of secondary schools (31,500 in 1961).

An important role in societal affairs in the NWFP is played by the ulama -- Muslim theologians. They total more than 15,000. The majority of the ulama (approximately 80%) are ministers attached to mosques (imams and mullahs); the next largest group comprises teachers (mudaris) in secular and Muslim religious schools (maktab, madrasa and darul-ulum). The

numbers and influence of the ulama are particularly great in the districts of Mardan, Peshawar, Bannu, Swat, and in the Hazara region. They are also quite influential, however, in the other districts as well, as well as in the "tribal strip" (where approximately 10% of all ulama in the province reside), due to persistence of the religious forms of social consciousness. In the colonial era many ulama, closely linked with the Pushtuni peasantry, artisans and merchants, sharing their social and political ideals, frequently became organizers and inspirers of anti-British activities, due to which they acquired great authority and prestige among the anti-imperialist segments of society, prestige which they still retain today.

The elite group within the ulama (close in material status to the Pushtuni bourgeoisie and landowners) plays an appreciable role in political affairs of the NWFP. Close to this group in status and influence are the heads of religious Islamic orders (pir and ishan), many of whom have thousands of murids.

The exploiter elite of the Pushtuni (and of the other peoples populating this province) is numerically small and extremely heterogeneous in a social respect, which is due to the historical peculiarities of its formation.

Development of elements of capitalism on the territory of the NWFP began at the end of the 19th century. Seeking to transform the local landlords into a dependable social supporting element, the British colonialists helped them expropriate communal and peasant lands, handed out extensive jagirs¹³ to the maliks and khans, and awarded them honorary titles. As a result of this policy, by the 1930's the landed gentry of the administrative districts of the NWFP had seized more than 60% of all cultivated land. As a result almost half of the rural populace was transformed into lessees, and there occurred stepped-up migration of impoverished peasants to the cities. Specialization of artisan production began to be evident.

Alongside formation of private gentry land ownership and stratification of the peasantry, a Pushtuni national merchant class began to form. With the increasing development of commodity-money relations, it took over an increasingly large portion of the domestic goods exchange which was developing between the mountain and plains areas of the province, between the growing cities and towns and the surrounding agricultural areas. In the most highly developed areas, gravitating to such a large urban center as Peshawar, conditions arose for transferring a portion of the assets amassed by the Pushtuni (and other local) landlords and merchants into the area of industrial production. The forming of a Pushtuni national bourgeoisie accelerated in the period between the two world wars. But in the mountain valleys of the "tribal strip" capitalism was still in its initial stages right up to the end of the colonial era: precapitalist relations predominated, frequently burdened by vestiges of the clan-tribal way of life.¹⁴

The lack of development of capitalist relations in the territories of this province led to a situation where formation of a Pushtuni bourgeoisie was also taking place beyond the boundaries of these territories: there was a continuing emigration of Pushtuni to the Punjab and Sind, where Pushtuni merchants found more favorable opportunities for placement and growth of their capital. Many Pushtuni who relocated to the Punjab and Sind became wandering merchants, combining this occupation with usury. Returning to their homeland, they would purchase land or shares in some company, or would establish their own enterprises.

Development of capitalism in the Pushtuni lands accelerated appreciably after 1947. Since the local bourgeoisie formed primarily from affluent landholders (tribal khans and maliks, retired military officers and civil servants, that is, for all practical purposes originating from those same landlord circles),¹⁵ the Pushtuni bourgeois retained and still retain, frequently in the form of a "personal union," ties with the social milieu which had engendered them. Many Pushtuni entrepreneurs are at the same time a landlord, factory owner, and merchant.¹⁶

As of the beginning of the 1960's 8% of all privately-owned Muslim firms in Pakistan belonged to Pushtuni businessmen (according to the figures of American scholar G. Papanek) (for comparison: 3.5% belonged to Bengali Muslims and 5% to Hodja-Ismailiyans).¹⁷ A high percentage of these businessmen were Yusufzaya by tribal affiliation -- landlords and merchants who had become rich in transit trade with Afghanistan: traders in textiles became owners of textile mills, while landowners who had engaged in growing sugar cane became sugar mill owners. Many wealthy Pushtuni businessmen became owners of and shareholders in industrial enterprises, transportation and trading companies not only in the NWFP but also in the Punjab and Sind.

Development of capitalist relations after 1947, which was accompanied by centralization of capital and concentration of production, promoted the formation of several groups or associations of the large Pushtuni trade-industrial bourgeoisie¹⁸ (Gandhara Industries; Khyber Agencies; Karimi Industries; etc), which had millions of rupees at their disposal and which directly or indirectly controlled the activities of several dozen firms in the textile, tobacco, sugar, metalworking and other branches of industry, as well as in the area of trade and exchange. Among the owners and managers of these companies, Pushtuni by origin, are many prominent statesmen and politicians, high-ranking military officers, and scions of distinguished aristocratic families. Members of the Pushtuni upper crust are usually linked by many years of personal ties and common interests (joint participation in running big industrial and trading companies) with many business magnates from the Punjab and Sind. Of course these ties have not and do not mean that there is no competitive rivalry among the different big-business trading and industrial establishments.

As noted above, the exploiter upper stratum in the Pushtuni society is numerically small. The majority are large landholders (approximately 12,000 persons), who even today own almost 60% of all (farmed and uncultivated) land in Pushtuni-populated areas. The following group is the Pushtuni bourgeoisie, totaling approximately 4,000 merchants and entrepreneurs (in the last 30 years the size of this stratum had grown almost sixfold). Adjacent to them in social status is the civil servant bureaucracy elite, approximately 1,000 persons.

In the decades which have passed since 1947 a considerable portion of the wealthy upper stratum of Pushtuni has virtually merged with the wealthy elite Punjabi, Muhajir (migrants from India and their descendants) and other ethnic communities of present-day Pakistan into a unified Pakistani elite. Many top Pakistani Government officials are Pushtuni by nationality. Pushtunis comprise 20% of the officer corps of Pakistan's armed forces, 16% of police officers, and 11% of upper-echelon Pakistan Government officials. Many of them have become owners of estates on irrigated land in Southwestern Punjab and Northern Sind. Today the principal sources of their high incomes and elevated social status (just as many wealthy Pushtuni businessmen) lie outside the boundaries of the NWFP.

An important feature of the NWFP, rooted in the colonial past, is the fact that the principal source of income for a significant part of the able-bodied male population of this province (including the "tribal strip") (and frequently the sole source) is service in the army, police, border troops, various provincial, paramilitary units, as well as in the civil administrative edifice. Under conditions of a growing agrarian overpopulation and chronic unemployment, the pay received for this service, as well as pension benefits, very often form the basis of livelihood for parents, brothers, sisters and children of Pushtuni who have donned the military and police uniform. At the beginning of the 1970's more than 80,000 Pushtuni were serving in the army alone, most of whom were from the Peshawar and Kohat districts (as we know, Pakistan's armed forces are made up of volunteers, and the average term of military service is 12 years). Evidently the number of Pushtuni serving in various military and paramilitary units and civil government establishments was not less (since at the beginning of the 1960's, according to official figures, this service was the source of livelihood of 40,100 persons just in the "tribal strip").

A description of the social structure of society in the NWFP would be incomplete if we failed to mention, if only briefly, such an important and unique element as the Pushtuni tribes.

The Pushtuni tribes (kaum or hel) today are unique relic communities, the preservation of which was promoted by certain features of the historical development of the Pushtuni people. One of them was the fact that for an extended period of time the Pushtuni did not have their own nationhood.

As a result the clan-tribal organization became the only force providing the peasants and artisans protection of life and property against predatory encroachments by the rulers of neighboring feudal states, and in recent times -- from colonialist schemes of annexation. The Pushtuni exploiter class also had a certain amount to gain by preserving it, since the traditions of the clan-tribal way of life masked class conflicts and offered the possibility of utilizing militia forces made up of a tribe's able-bodied adult males as an instrument of aggressive undertakings aimed at conquest. As a result the tribal organization became a unique, highly stable economic and administrative-political system, within the framework of which the labor and social activities of the bulk of the Pushtuni people were contained until quite recently (and frequently up to present time in the "tribal strip"). Division of land and water, assessment and levying of taxes and various one-time tax levies, enlistment and conscription into the army, etc, were performed on a tribal basis. Each of the Pushtuni tribes occupied its own, strictly defined territory, with grazing lands, cultivated farmland and fortified castles -- kala, serving as residences for chiefs of tribes and tribal subdivisions -- the khans and maliks (or myshr).

In the "tribal strip" (as well as in certain areas of the administrative districts) the Pushtuni tribes retain such elements of the traditional organization as the jirga -- council of elders (sometimes heads of families), which settles the internal affairs of the tribe or clan on the basis of customary Pushtuni law (pushtunwali). Relics of the clan-tribal military organization (lashkar) -- militia forces of all able-bodied males; and mutual labor assistance (ashar) are preserved. In some places the custom of wesh is still preserved -- periodic land redistribution among the full and equal members of the community.¹⁹

Persistent vestiges of tribal organization which have been preserved to the present day exert considerable influence on social processes taking place in the NWFP. Pushtuni landowners and entrepreneurs, tribal khans and maliks, and the ulama actively utilize these carryovers in their own interests, endeavoring to prevent unification of the Pushtuni toilers on a class basis.

In the Dera Ismail Khan district as well as in Hazara, the Pushtuni dwelling there continue even today to view themselves as lords and the local non-Pushtuni farming population as their khamsaya, that is, tributaries and vassals, since the forebears of these non-Pushtuni were either subjugated during the migration of Pushtuni into these areas or had voluntarily placed themselves "under the protection" of the Pushtuni conquerors. As for the khamsaya themselves, quite frequently they consider themselves obligated to pay land rent to the local Pushtuni landlords not because the latter are the private owners of the land farmed by the khamsaya as lessees but because these landlords are khans and maliks of the Pushtuni tribes to which (tribes) the khamsaya are obligated to give a malakam ("master's portion") of the harvest gathered from this land, as the tribes are viewed as the supreme owners of all the lands in a given

area. These relic notions help the khan holding dominion in a given Pushtuni tribal area (even if the Pushtuni do not comprise a majority of the population) become the area's political "boss." In the "tribal strip" the khan of the dominant tribe is essentially the only possible leader; none of his fellow tribesmen would even attempt to question his authority (it is for good reason that during the 1970 general elections in the tribal strip the khans and maliks had no opponents in their districts).

Peasant leaseholder disturbances broke out in the 1970's in Peshawar and Mardan districts, disturbances led by the "Mazdur Kisan Parti" ("Worker-Peasant Party").²⁰ Even these disturbances, however, were tinted in the colors of tribal strife. This is due to the fact that the majority of landowners (including small landowners) in these areas are of the Yusufzaya tribe; as for the peasant leaseholders, they include very many members of the Momand tribe, especially in the northern part of Peshawar district. The result was that the large Yusufzaya landowners succeeded in giving an agrarian conflict the character of intertribal clashes.

The situation in the NWFP is negatively affected by the custom of blood vengeance (badal). Usually the causes of conflicts which run on for years are the "three Z's" ("zar, zan wa zamin," that is, "gold, women, and land"). There are frequent cases, however, where the deep and lasting interests of the propertied Pushtuni elite lie behind these clashes, interests connected with political rivalry, struggle for power, etc. Then the hostility between various tribes, taking on a protracted and persisting character, draws thousands of people into the fray.

The relations between some tribes (for example, parts of the Orakzaya and Turi, who are Shiites) and their neighbors are complicated not only by intertribal but also religious enmity, which also frequently erupts into protracted bloody clashes. There is evidence that at the end of the 1960's and beginning of the 1970's the khans of Swat and Dir vigorously and with some success aroused intertribal conflicts on the territory of these districts in order to halt the growing democratic movement.

FOOTNOTES

1. For more detail see "Pakistan. Spravochnik" [Pakistan, A Reference Book], Moscow, 1977, pp 30-39.
2. For more detail see T. Dzhabborov, "Severo-Zapadnaya pogranichnaya provintsiya" [North-West Frontier Province], Moscow, 1977.
3. "The Fourth Five-Year Plan. 1970-1975," Islamabad, 1970, page 558.
4. "NWFP, 1972-1976," Islamabad, 1976, pp 21-22.
5. "Population Census of Pakistan, 1972, Census Bulletin No 1," Islamabad, 1973, page 4.

6. For more detail see Zubeida Khatoon, "Institutional Agricultural Credit in Former NWFP," Peshawar, 1966.
7. See, for example, DAWN (Karachi), 30 May 1972; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 23 August 1972.
8. At the beginning of the 1970's industry in the NWFP was producing 32% of all the sugar produced in Pakistan, 23% of tobacco products, and 20% of canning industry output.
9. The Peshawar district produces almost 100% of the output of the metal-working, printing, leather, construction and paper industries, 80% of the output of the furniture industry, 70% of the food processing, chemical, shoe and garment industries, and 50% of the province's textile industry output (for more detail see T. Dzhabborov, "Development of Factory Industry in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province," "Ekonomicheskoye razvitiye Pakistana" [Economic Development of Pakistan], Moscow, 1974, pp 145-176.
10. For more detail see Nurul Islam Mian and Fazal Qadir, "Small-Scale Enterprises of the NWFP," Peshawar, 1965.
11. "Census of Pakistan. Population, 1961," Vol 3, Karachi, pp VI-15.
12. For more detail see "NWFP, 1972-1976," pp 16-18; Akbar S. Ahmed, "The Tribal Areas," Karachi, 1977, pp 53-55.
13. Jagir -- privileged land grant free of all taxes.
14. Yu. V. Gankovskiy, "Narody Pakistana. Osnovnyye etapy etnicheskoy istorii" [The Peoples of Pakistan. Principal Stages of Ethnic History], Moscow, 1964, pp 217-220.
15. It is characteristic that in 1951 7,400 of the 8,100 landowners of the administrative districts of the NWFP were engaged in entrepreneurial activities in various areas of nonagricultural production (including 3,600 in commerce). See "Census of Pakistan, 1951," Vol 1, Karachi, Table 15, pp 15-2.
16. At the beginning of the 1960's 4,300 of the 5,900 businessmen and merchants in the Peshawar area were also landowners.
17. G. F. Papanek, "Pakistan's Development. Social Goals and Private Incentives," Cambridge, 1967.
18. This process was investigated in S. F. Levin, "Formirovaniye krupnoy burzhuazii Pakistana" [Forming of Pakistan's Upper Bourgeoisie], Moscow, 1970.

19. Akbar S. Ahmed, op. cit., pp 11-22, 39-41.

20. See for example, THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 9 Sept 1972, 27 Jan 1973,
23 Feb 1973.

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CSO: 4101

PAKISTAN

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF MATERIAL TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Pakistan Government today announced creation of Institutional Arrangements at Federal and Provincial levels for speedy delivery of relief goods to Afghan refugees and streamline implementation of other relief measures.

Briefing the newsmen, Mr S M Niazi, Secretary States and Frontier Region Division said the step was taken on the directive of President Mohammad Ziaul-Haq to remedy the situation of delay of distribution of Relief goods, being donated by national and international agencies.

Describing the response to the President's appeal for contribution to the Afghan Refugees Welfare Fund as "Favourable" the Secretary said aid refugees in cash and kind has been pouring in from abroad as within the country in increasing quantity. But influx of refugees he added was also increasing at a rate of 40 to 50 thousand per month and their number have risen to 513,116 according to latest estimates.

He said the institutional arrangements includes setting up an Organization headed by Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees a Federal Coordination Committee and Provincial Committees.

Mr Niazi said Brig Said Azhar has been appointed as Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees and this Organization has been entrusted with the responsibility to receive all relief goods, store them in the warehouses and arrange for their prompt dispatch to the Provincial Governments for speedy distribution among the Afghan Refugees.

The Organization will have its representatives, designated as Deputy Directors, at each Provincial Headquarters. They will deliver the goods to provincial governments and keep a close liaison with Provincial Relief Commissioners for the prompt utilization of relief.

The secretary said the Federal Coordination Committee will monitor the relief operation coordinate, assistance of various International Agencies

and also implement the programme for health care and schemes to make the refugees self-reliant.

The schemes included setting up carpet centres and small poultry farms besides expansion of educational facilities for children of refugees. The programme was being financed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr S. Niazi, Secretary States and Frontier Region Division will chair the Federal Coordination Committee which will have as members representatives of Ministry of Food and Agriculture Livestock Division, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet Division.

The Secretary said the creation of the committee was essential as the government had undertaken certain responsibilities in accordance with agreements executed with UNHCR and WFP (World Food Programme).

He said provincial governments of the NWFP and Baluchistan have also set similar Committees, which would help them discharging their obligations.

The Provincial level committees will be headed by Chief Secretaries and members are Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Secretary Home, Secretary Health, Secretary Industries Secretary Livestock and Secretary Food.

Replying to a question Mr Niazi said refugees would be employed in small scale Cottage Industries and trained in various vocations. Apart from making them self-reliant this experience will help them resettle on the return to their homeland.

He said Refugees were keen to return as soon as conditions in Afghanistan improved and similarly Pakistan Government welcome their return as and when they desired. He said they have been given relief purely on humanitarian grounds.

Replying to another question Mr Niazi said that at present refugees were housed in 51 Camps. Of these 23 were in NWFP and 28 in Baluchistan. He said the NWFP Camps were overcrowded and Government would set more camps will have five thousand refugees.

Under the new arrangements he said relief goods were being distributed at Camp level by a two member committee comprising an Afghan elder and an Assistant Commissioner.

CSO: 4220

PAKISTAN

90,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 80 p 1

[Excerpt] More than five lakh thirteen thousand Afghan Refugees have crossed over to Pakistan from Afghanistan Secretary States and Frontier Regions said today.

Replying to a question during a Press Conference, Mr S M Niazi also revealed their number was increasing at a rate of forty to fifty thousand a month.

Of the 513,116 refugees ninety thousand entered Baluchistan and rest of them were in the north west Frontier province and northern areas, he added.

The actual number of refugees in Pakistan was much more than the official estimates since ten percent of refugees never got themselves registered.

CSO: 4220

GREATER ATTENTION TO BACKWARD AREAS' UPLIFT URGED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 4 Apr 80 pp 1, 10

[Text]

CHITRAL, April 3: President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said today that priority was being accorded to expand electricity, water and communication facilities, in the backward areas, in order to accelerate the pace of progress.

Addressing the Councillors of Chitral district, elders and prominent citizens, at Chitral airport soon after his arrival here from Peshawar this morning, the President said that the Government considered expansion in these sectors as fundamental for development, of any area, and, therefore, was striving to provide these three basic facilities, in the underdeveloped areas.

The President said that it was the policy of the Government to pay greater attention to the development of the backward areas of the country for the welfare of people everywhere, in the country.

He assured his audience that Chitral would receive special attention also and necessary funds would be made available for its development by the Federal and the Provincial Governments, within the ambit of the national resources. The Government, he said, wished to see areas like Chitral make rapid progress.

He also announced a special grant for the District Council, Chitral, for implementation of its development schemes.

LOWARI TUNNEL PROJECT

The President referred to the Lowari tunnel project, and said that the Government attached due importance to it for better communication between Chitral and other parts of the country. Negotiations for financial assistance for the project had been taken up with certain international organizations and as soon as funds were available, work on its completion would be initiated.

He revealed that the Government proposed to procure light aircraft for air service between Chitral and other parts of the country. If found feasible, the question of reduction in the air fare would also be sympathetically considered, he said.

FARM OUTPUT

The President reiterated his call for boosting agricultural production, and said that vigorous efforts should be made to achieve the objective of self-sufficiency in foodgrains. The Government, he said, would provide all out facilities to increase agricultural production.

He said that a team of agricultural experts would soon be sent to Chitral to carry out a survey and to consider steps for increasing agricultural production in Chitral district so that it could produce foodgrains to meet its food requirements.

LOCAL BODIES

Referring to the emergence of Local Bodies in the country, the President exhorted the Councillors to serve the people with

honesty, sincerity and dedication. They must prove themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the masses, and strive to solve their problems in order to live up to their expectations, he said.

DEMANDS

Discussing various other demands, including increase in development funds, provision of electricity, and greater representation in Federal and provincial services, the President said that Chitral would receive special attention in the allocation of development funds.

In his address of welcome, the Chairman of the District Council gave an assurance that the people of Chitral would consider to sacrifice too great for the Islamisation of the society and the defence of the country. He said they fully approved the non-aligned policy being followed by the Government in view of the happenings across the border.

Earlier on his arrival, the President was received by the Division Commissioner and the Chairman, Chitral District Council.

A contingent of the Chitral Scouts presented a guard of honour which was inspected by the President. He also took salute.

The President also walked to the slogan-raising crowd, and asked about their welfare. Later, he left for Garam Chashma.—APP.

OVERSEAS WORKERS REMITTANCES SCORED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 80 p 6

[Editorial: "For Overseas Workers"]

[Text] The Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Lt.-Gen. F.A. Chishti, currently visiting Canada, has outlined some of the facilities that would soon be available to our compatriots working in foreign lands. This year, the remittances sent home by them have increased 25 percent from a record amount of more than a billion dollars. A less sanguine piece of news which has accompanied this tidings is the fact that only 11 percent of all our workers abroad actually send any money home. If this is the state of affairs then one is inclined to doubt the wisdom of allowing skilled and semi-skilled workers to leave their jobs in Pakistan to help the economics of other countries. The annual demand of skilled manpower in the domestic labour market is around 50,000 which is roughly equal to the foreign market requirements which we can meet. Till last year, however, we had facilities for annually turning out only 8,000 skilled workers. So far, that is to say, we have been displacing our own functioning labour force in order to meet the requirements of manpower-starved but rich countries abroad. And out of those that work in self-imposed exile only 11 percent send home their earnings. The question is that these billion dollars that we gratefully receive from them are not properly utilised and merely create opportunities for conspicuous consumption and nonproductive development.

A lot of schemes chalked out in the past to attract this money into productive investment have fizzled out in the hands of an incompetent bureaucracy. Plans fashioned in the small scale industries sector have not fructified and the remittances are floating about in pursuit of mindless luxury. For the first time, however, the Overseas Workers Foundation seems to be setting its sights on plausible schemes. First of all, as announced by the Minister, the OWF will take in hand the most pressing requirement of the overseas Pakistanis the need to construct and possess a house in Pakistan. Instead of letting innocent expatriates come on brief furloughs and fall victims to unscrupulous real estate deals, the Foundation will buy land for them and

construct their houses on fair terms. Secondly, the Foundation will arrange to develop training facilities for one lakh skilled workers annually to meet domestic and foreign demands. Already, starting last year, the Foundation has expanded these vocational training facilities on an urgent basis but a well-established and institutionalised system of preparing workers for the international job market will ultimately be needed for a competitive participation in this domain. The membership of the OWF is bound to increase after the announcement of a large number of stipends for the children of its members. Similarly, the plan to set up schools for girls who cannot be properly educated abroad will become a great inducement. The success of the OWF will finally be measured by its ability to take over the bulk of the investment activity now being managed for Pakistanis abroad by ill-organised private parties.

CSO: 4220

PRICE CONTROL HITS CONSUMER HARD

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by Iqbal Malik]

[Text] Consequent upon the lack of interest shown by the local administration the butchers have unscrupulously started demanding Rs 22 and Rs 10 for a kilo of mutton and beef, respectively, against the fixed prices of Rs 16 and Rs 8. It may be all right to prescribe the rate of a commodity but it is quite another thing to ensure that it is strictly adhered to. This state of affairs is a clear-cut negation of the spirit of the law.

Similar condition is obtaining in all the adjoining districts but there has not been such a hue and cry by the consumers as in this city. The hike in prices of mutton and beef has caused a rise in the prices of other commodities, particularly fish. Fish dealers are charging exorbitant rates with the result that it has become almost a nonexistent commodity. Its rates range between Rs 10 and Rs 16 a kilo. Under these circumstances, it has become all the more necessary that the local administration convened a meeting of the butchers and fish dealers to impress upon the desirability to sticking to the prices fixed by the authorities for mutton, beef and fish besides ensuring their adequate availability and warn them that in case they do not mend their way, the law will be strictly enforced to tackle with the defaulters.

There has been a general tendency that whenever a certain commodity is brought under the orbit of control it mysteriously disappears or is available in blackmarket at exorbitant rates. For example, eggs were in short supply and selling at Rs 8 to Rs 9 a dozen because of fixation of rates. Now when the eggs were put on open sale, not only has their supply improved tremendously but there has also been a downward trend in their prices, as the same are now available in abundance at Rs 7 a dozen. The rates of the desi variety of eggs are, however, still high as they are available at Rs 11 to Rs 12 a dozen.

Similarly, cement which was under control earlier had disappeared from the market is no longer a source of headache for the consumers since the

relaxation in the control. Now everyone could have his requirement of cement from the market at the rate fixed by the factories.

It is now up to the administration here to see whether the imposition of price control leads to the nonavailability of commodities or whether it is the lack of interest shown by the concerned officials towards the implementation of the fixed prices.

Barring a few exceptions, prices of vegetables have remained static in the market as a whole. Tomatoes are being sold at Rs 8 a kilo against Rs 6 in the previous month. Garlic is, however, selling at Rs 3 a kilo--dearer by one rupee.

The same is true of prices of fruits. There has been no marked variation in their prices and all varieties of fruits are available at reasonable rates except oranges which are being sold at Rs 5 a dozen against Rs 3 in the previous month.

Prices of pulses are neither more nor less and are within the reach of the common man. Wholesale and retail prices per kilo of gur, shakar and desi sugar (after its de-control) are: Gur: Rs 4.50 (wholesale) and Rs 5 (retail); Shakar: Rs 6 (wholesale) and Rs 6.50 (retail) and Desi Sugar: Rs 9.50 (wholesale) and Rs 10.50 retail). The three commodities are freely available in the market.

The local administration should pay full attention to the prices being demanded for Pakistani-manufactured bicycles. While the control price of a bicycle is Rs 625, the dealers here do not abide by the fixed prices. They normally overcharge on one pretext or another.

Sometimes they demand as much as Rs 850 for a bicycle on the plea that the spare parts of superior quality are imported and replaced. This is simply a lame excuse. Why at all should the local dealers use the imported spare parts when a customer does not want it? If at all they do, why should they be given a free hand to charge the prices at will?

CSO: 4220

COMPREHENSIVE WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] The Baluchistan Government in collaboration with a National Organization is working on the preparations of a comprehensive plan to conserve flood water and to make judicious use of underground water resources for irrigations purpose.

The Government has set priorities to surmount the shortage of Irrigation Water for Agricultural purposes.

Under the plan the Government wants to conserve every drop of rain water as well as to recharge the underground water resources by construction of delay action Dam.

The Provincial Irrigation and Power Department has been directed to give priority to the Project aimed at recharging underground water resources which are the main source of Irrigation in the Province.

The Government is taking steps to associate the Local Bodies councillors with this gigantic task and implementation of the proposed plan on scientific lines.

The Provincial Government has also asked water and power development Authority to extend electricity to more areas of the Province through National Grid to give filip to the Agriculture.

Side by side steps are underway to provide more tractors and bulldozers as well as better quality seeds and greater plant protection cover for the development of Agriculture. The concerned Departments and the Local Bodies Representatives have also been asked to prepare workable formula to ensure optimum use of the available facilities to the benefit of maximum number of farmers.

CSO: 4220

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY OUTLINED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 80 pp I, II

[Text] Agriculture is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy. It contributes nearly 1/3rd of the GNP and provides livelihood to over 2/3rd of its people. Pakistan offers a great potential for rapid development of agriculture because of abundance of land, soil and water resources, sunshine and its hard working farmers with a long tradition of agriculture. An essential prerequisite for the favourable utilisation of all the positive factors, however, is a dynamic coherent, responsive and well-knit agricultural policy.

The National Agricultural Policy recently announced by the Government envisages improvement in the quality of life of the masses by increasing agricultural production to a level that Pakistan becomes not only self-sufficient, but is also able to generate surplus for export.

The new agricultural policy gives balanced importance to all aspects of agricultural production, including livestock, fisheries, poultry, dairy, e ry, range/water shed management, includes measures like provision of modern agricultural inputs, use of latest technology, development of land and water potential, improvement of marketing and storage facilities, application of new technology for raising productivity per unit of land, and granting financial incentives for increased production.

also stipulates provision of opportunities for the people to engage in gainful employment to enhance their incomes for their social progress and contribute to national prosperity and providing people with equitable access to the natural resources of agricultural production, i.e., land and water. Besides, it ensures basic amenities in the rural areas without disturbing natural environment and agricultural production through rational measures in such matters as pest control, forest exploitation, control on grazing, wildlife management, salinity and flood control.

The National Agricultural Policy has a strong linkage with plans for other economic sectors. When analysed objectively, it consolidates the policies on various aspects of agriculture that have been followed so far

or may have been announced from time to time and identifies the areas which require special emphasis or further attention. It covers the entire spectrum of agriculture like land reforms and classification, water resources development, agricultural inputs policies, subsidies, crop support prices, research, cooperatives, marketing, livestock, dairy, fisheries and forestry.

The salient features of the Policy can broadly be studied under following sectors:

- (a) Land reforms
- (b) Agro-ecological zones
- (c) Barani lands
- (d) Water resources
- (e) Subsidies
- (f) Seeds
- (g) Fertilizers
- (h) Plant protection
- (i) Farm mechanisation
- (j) Extension services
- (k) Credit
- (l) Support prices
- (m) Agricultural research
- (n) Cooperatives
- (o) Marketing and
- (p) Forestry.

Land Reforms: The Policy takes note of the land reforms introduced. This policy of land reforms has to be not only a measure of advancement of social welfare, but also an instrument for economic development and increased agricultural production. Surveys and studies will be carried out to see how far this objective has been achieved and how an individual farmer can be helped to increase the production and productivity for the land.

Agro-Ecological Zones: Classification of the country has to be made into different agro-ecological zones to ensure that natural resources are exploited to the full by encouraging commercial farming and adjustment of cropping patterns in conformity with soil and water resources and with due regard to the climate and physiography.

Barani Lands: The immense resources of barani lands have so far been exploited far below their potential. A detailed study of the handicaps involved is to be carried out as cultivation of these areas does not require large-scale investment in irrigation network. The concept of area development introduced for barani areas of the Punjab is to be extended to other provinces wherever suitable rainfall conditions warrant. The technology for utilisation of arid zones as range lands for supporting cattle and livestock has to be evolved through intensive research and experimentation.

Water Resources: Water is the most important agricultural input. It is not land but water which acts as the biggest constraint in agricultural production. To provide a long-term basis for sustained growth of agriculture, efficient management of available water resources has to be undertaken under a well-thought-out plan.

The twin menace of salinity and waterlogging poses a great threat to agriculture. The priorities of projects for salinity and waterlogging control have to be carefully determined and introduction of the private sector for development of sweet ground water in relevant zones has to be seriously considered.

While proper SCARPs schemes are being planned, concerted efforts will have to be made to popularise such existing varieties and development of new varieties of crops, grasses and trees as can grow well under different conditions of waterlogging, salinity and sodicity.

The present heavy losses of water in the conveyance system from the canal head to farmers' fields exceed 50 pc. Measures have to be taken to minimise these losses. The improvement of water courses with the help of water users associations as is being done in a pilot project already launched for 1,500 water courses to start with, will form the major component of this water saving programme.

Greater coordination has to exist between agriculture and irrigation at the local, Provincial and Federal levels. The Provincial Governments and the Federal Government are already taking necessary measures in this behalf.

Subsidies Policy: Subsidies have certain roles to perform. They are instrumental in promoting use of nontraditional inputs and techniques. They can be used for providing special help to backward regions and poorer groups. But recourse to subsidies should be confined to these functions. The temptation or tendency to build them into the system merely to prevent cost increases should be avoided. If this is not done, subsidies can cause inefficient and wasteful use of inputs which is not only nonproductive but also counterproductive. Even in the limited cases where it can be used, precaution is needed to ensure that subsidy will actually perform the intended function, that it is not prolonged beyond the period for which it is necessary and that it is not allowed to become excessive.

Seed: Improved quality seed plays a pivotal role in increased agricultural production. The use of quality seed alone can cause an increase in yields ranging from 15 to 20 p.c. Development of high-yielding varieties of seed for different ecological zones constitute part of a vigorous breeding drive. The breeders must be given specific criteria for developing suitable varieties for different agroecological zones. The varieties must be screened at the national level for their performance under different conditions like diseases, salinity, waterlogging and water stress, etc. A variety should

only be released if it passes the criteria fixed after thorough consideration. Periodic review of the performance of all varieties must be conducted and those found unsuitable should be banned for further cultivation/multiplication; they should be immediately withdrawn, particularly the disease-susceptible varieties. Seed certification arrangements already established have to be expanded and properly equipped to undertake scrutiny and inspection before seed is sold through commercial channels.

A seed industry project in the public sector has already been launched to deal primarily with major crops. The private sector will also be involved to enter into this business for which a package of incentives has been evolved.

Fertilizers: Apart from the need for the repricing of fertilizer, about which specific decisions have already been announced by the Government, research and trials have to be undertaken to determine its best use under different soil conditions. Definite recommendations have to be developed for the farmer's benefit regarding the mix, dosage, timing and manner of fertilizer application to obtain optimum crop responses.

Use of farm yard manure has to be encouraged. Bio gas plants can serve the dual purpose of converting farm yard waste into organic fertilizer, as well as meet household fuel needs. Incentives will be provided to municipalities or town committees and the private enterprise to set up composting plants around urban areas for supply of compost to farmers.

Large blocks of land in Pakistan need application of gypsum as a soil amendment agent. The production and supply of gypsum will be expanded and its use encouraged under an appropriate programme.

Plant Protection: Regarding plant protection, emphasis has to be shifted from chemical control to integrated control, which will include cultural and biological measures in addition to use of chemical pesticides. Pest scouting services are to be greatly improved and expanded, so that the expensive chemical control is resorted to only if the intensity of pest attack exceeds the economic injury threshold, which should be established for various crops and various areas.

Aerial spraying will be discontinued as a free service. The present system of procurement and distribution of pesticides leads to malpractices and small farmers normally do not benefit. Supply and distribution of pesticides for ground operations will, therefore, be entrusted to the private sector and subsidies completely withdrawn. Specific policy decisions in these two cases have already been announced.

Farm Mechanisation: Farm mechanisation at an increasing level is becoming necessary and will be encouraged to meet shortage of labour and farm power at critical stages of crop operations and to increase the intensity of cropping. Liberal incentives will be given to local manufacturers of

agricultural implements and machinery. Research and development effort is being intensified for evolving implements suited to our soil and economic conditions and also for use with bullocks.

Extension Services: Extension services have been the weakest link for the entire agriculture system. The main deficiencies of the existing system are lack of mobility and accommodation of extension workers, inadequate arrangements for training and the low density of the present services. The new training and visit method (coupled with adequate research) which is being introduced in the Punjab and Sind, will be extended to all parts of the country and made increasingly effective.

Credit: Credit facilities have improved in recent years and a number of agencies are disbursing credit. The coverage of credit, however, remains limited. Arrangements will be made for its rapid expansion. Supervised credit aimed at meeting the requirements of small farmers will be given special attention.

Support Prices: A large number of agricultural commodities have been brought under the price support programme with the main object of ensuring economic return to farms, encourage greater production and promote the use of improved technology. These support prices will be kept under constant review for adjustment in the light of changing situation and assessment of export potential of domestic needs. Consideration will be given to the setting up of a standing agricultural commodities prices commission to undertake continuous review of prices and crops and make recommendations to the Government for necessary adjustments. The agencies to administer the price support system of each agricultural commodity included in it will be identified so that in case of falling domestic prices, the growers can get the guaranteed minimum prices.

Changes in support prices will be announced, as a rule, well before the sowing of the crop in question.

Agricultural Research: Agricultural research plays an important role in accelerating agricultural development. The present effort suffers from a lack of coordination and financial support. The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council is being reorganised as a fully autonomous body to provide leadership in research and is being vested with authority to set up national institutions for neglected, yet important, sectors of agriculture. Linkage between agricultural research, training and extension is to be ensured.

Cooperation: Keeping in view future requirements of rural areas, it is necessary to shift emphasis from credit cooperatives to development and multi-purpose cooperatives. The handicaps in expanding cooperatives farming will be studied for evolving suitable measures to overcome them.

Marketing: The absence of marketing facilities can be a constraint on agricultural production. The provincial Governments have set up regulated markets at a few places for the convenience of farmers. The number of those markets is to be enlarged. Creation of organised wholesale markets, warehouse, cold storage, adequate transport arrangements and processing units will go a long way to ensure a fair deal to growers at the market place. Priority will be given to the development of road network to facilitate transport of agricultural products. As far as possible, cooperatives will be encouraged to enter into the field of marketing so as to curb profiteering by arhties and commission agents. [as printed]

Suitable post-harvest treatment of produce can save the present heavy losses which can range from 35 to 50 percent in the case of perishable products and 10 to 15 percent in the case of foodgrains and seeds. This will require adoption and introduction of appropriate post-harvest techniques in various operations; harvesting, handling, grading, packing, storage, processing and transportation.

The long-term aim should be to move towards a freer marketing system which assures best return to the growers and, at the same time, stabilises prices at appropriate levels.

Livestock: Pakistan's livestock resources hold considerable potential for large-scale production of beef mutton and poultry. Our national herd comprises 10.6 million buffaloes, 14.85 million cattle, 21.69 million goats, 18.93 million sheep and 35 million poultry. In this sector, improvement of the quality through artificial insemination, control and eradication of major animal diseases with emphasis on preventive medicine and developing herd immunity, introduction of high-yielding fodder crops and use of crop residues and industrial waste as animal feed will be some of the main thrust areas of the new policy. The role of the public sector and the private sector in livestock development, milk production and supply, fisheries development, inland and marine, specially in the newly extended Exclusive Economic Zone stretching to 200 miles beyond our shores has been clearly demarcated.

The private sector has not come forward to establish meat business for export. The Policy recognises the urgent need to set up an organisation in the public sector to act as a catalytic agent for the promotion of livestock farms and export of beer, mutton in the private sector.

Forestry: Pakistan has a land area of 80.37 million hectares. Only 3.7 percent of the land area i.e. 2,954 million hectares, are under forest, meeting 40 percent of our timber and 10 percent of firewood requirements. In addition, there are 10 to 15 trees per hectare in irrigated areas and 3 to 5 trees per hectares on barani lands, giving 30 percent of small timber and 80 percent of our firewood demand. Due to shortage of forest areas, our per capita timber consumption is only 0.8 cft. compared to over

65 cft. annually in developed countries. Our wood-based industries are running at about 50 percent of their capacity with an import bill of over Rs. 700 million annually for various wood and wood products.

Wild lands form a natural renewable resource, but efforts for its developments have been negligible. Efforts are required for their periodic survey and evaluation to plan forestry and forest industry development on a long-term basis. Considering the overall requirements and the prevailing energy crisis, it has become necessary to adopt measures like bigger thrust on tree plantation of fast-growing species in areas outside forests; development of compact fuel wood plantation in areas of wood scarcity on waste lands through public motivation and incentives; making effective motivational arrangements to involve public in mass-scale tree plantation and nature conservation; management of wildlands in various forms, including recreation and wildlife; forest harvesting on scientific lines; increased production of industrial wood; planned, integrated and coordinated forest development at the provincial and national levels and preserved and enhanced. [as published]

Growers will be encouraged to form associations at all levels. These associations will be given opportunity to explain the growers' problems and give suggestions to the Government. Similarly, the existing system of collecting statistics has to be improved. It is also necessary that the monitoring of projects and programmes is regularly done to prevent delays, cost overruns and faults in execution and as feed back for changes in policy.

CSO: 4220

FAO TO RAISE FARM AID

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Mar 80 p 6

[Text] The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of United Nations would increase its aid to Pakistan for various agricultural schemes, said the FAO Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, in Lahore on Saturday.

Addressing a Press conference before his departure for New Delhi, the FAO chief said his organisation would help Pakistan in projects related to development of fisheries and building of more foodgrain storages. The FAO had already decided to help Pakistan for boosting oilseeds output and purchasing wheat threshers and rice-husking machines.

Dr Saouma said he would send the Head of FAO's Fisheries Section to Pakistan soon to study the plans for the development of fisheries, particularly in the 200 miles of territorial sea of Pakistan along 250 miles coast. He said about 90 percent of fish was found in territorial waters limit which had since been extended from 12 to 200 miles. He said FAO would help Pakistan for the exploitation of fish in this area, training of fishermen and other allied fields. He said Pakistan waters were rich in fish, a bulk of which could be exported.

The FAO chief said his organisation would also send a team of experts to Pakistan to study the projects for the construction of additional foodgrain storage capacity. He said Pakistan needed more than the existing storage capacity of two million tons of foodgrains. He said FAO was prepared to finance construction of additional storage capacity.

As regards fertilisers Dr Saouma said that FAO would make all efforts to procure fertilisers from other countries for Pakistan at concessional rates. He stressed the need for increasing fertiliser production in the country to meet its requirements.

He said two years ago the President of Pakistan had asked the FAO to send its experts to Pakistan to examine the prospects of increasing agricultural production. A team of experts was sent to Pakistan which after studying various projects and meeting officers and experts of Pakistan, submitted their recommendations to the Pakistan Government. He said he was happy to find that the FAO recommendations had produced good results because

production of cotton and rice had increased. The mission had played its role successfully in Pakistan and agricultural production had improved. He said Pakistan had a big potential of agricultural production. It had a large area under farms and there were large surface water and ground-water resources which could be exploited to increase farm production.

The FAO chief hoped that the progress made by Pakistan in the field of agriculture would be maintained. "You are producing large quantities of wheat and cotton. You are exporting cotton. You have dynamic people who are working hard to boost farm production," he added.

Dr Saouma said it was heartening to note that Pakistan had achieved self-sufficiency in agricultural production except in oil-seeds for which the FAO would give all possible help. He hoped that Pakistan would be able to export foodgrains to other countries.

The FAO chief said his body had decided to extend food aid for the Afghan refugees to the extent of \$1,105 million. More aid would be given to Pakistan as the number of Afghan refugees was increasing. He said FAO would be sending a mission to Pakistan next month to determine the quantum of further FAO aid to Pakistan. He said FAO would be cooperating with the UN High Commission for Refugees in helping the Pakistan Government for providing necessary food aid to the Afghan refugees.

Replying to a question about world food situation, the FAO chief said that according to a UN survey there were no less than 450 million people experiencing acute food shortage in the world. He said there was enough food in North America, Canada and certain other countries, but there were difficulties in its quick transportation. Japan was producing seven million tons of surplus rice. He said there was a danger of a food crisis and the FAO would take all measures to combat the situation. "We can only warn the countries of the world to be prepared for such an eventuality," he said. He said the solution of any world food crisis lay in creating an international food reserve. He said now it appeared to be just an Utopia to have such an international food reserve, but in future, it would have to be given practical shape.

CSO: 4220

FAO TO HELP PREVENT POST-HARVEST LOSSES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 80 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, March 6: The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations is to provide \$550,000 aid to Pakistan for prevention of post-harvest losses of rice and for boosting production of oil seeds.

This was stated by Dr Edouard Saouma, Director General, FAO, on his arrival here today from Rome for a three-day visit at the invitation of Pakistan Government.

He said that \$3,50000 would be given for the purchase of equipment for harvesting, thrashing and cleaning to prevent post-harvest losses of rice, while \$200,000 would be provided for the oil seed production programme.
[as published]

Dr Saouma said that Pakistan had to import large quantity of oil every year to meet its requirement. The FAO aid in this behalf, he said, would boost the oil production programme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The FAO had also approved a \$6 million food assistance programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he said, adding that the total FAO aid for 4,00,000 Afghan refugees would now come to \$11.5 million.

The Director-General, FAO said that he would send, an FAO mission later this month to review the situation with regard to Afghan refugees.

The friendly countries also sanctioned an additional amount of assistance for Afghan refugees, but he did not disclose the figures.

Dr Saouma said that the FAO would issue an appeal from Rome tomorrow to all the countries which had promised help to the Afghan refugees. He said they would be asked to make their contributions to meet the requirements of the needy people.

The FAO Director-General would call on President General Muhammad Ziaul Haq and have separate meetings with the Food and Agriculture Minister

Rear Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua, Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Adviser on Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi.

Dr Saouma said that the relations between the FAO and Pakistan were excellent. Pakistan is one of the member countries of the FAO, where 45 FAO experts were working in various fields including fisheries, livestock, poultry, cotton, etc., he added.

He said the technical assistance from FAO to Pakistan last year was about \$4.5 million and the expenditure under the FAO-aided World Food Programme was about 11 million dollars.

Dr. Saouma leaves for Faisalabad tomorrow where he will be conferred upon an honorary degree of Doctor of Science at a convocation of the Agricultural University, Faisalabad.

Dr Saouma will later fly to Lahore for an overnight stay. He will be guest of honour at a dinner to be hosted by the Punjab Governor.

The FAO Director-General will leave for New Delhi on Friday to participate in the FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific to be held there from March 8 to 13.

Before his departure, Dr Saouma will address a Press conference at the Lahore Airport.--APF.

CSO: 4220

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY POLICY DISCUSSED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] March 4: The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet has decided to evolve a long-term policy for cotton textile industry.

Under the policy, the Committee, which met under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister Mr Ghulam Ishaq, decided that no new spinning unit will be sanctioned except in zero custom duty areas.

Accordingly, no textile industrial units will be permitted on the basis of repatriable investment. Further units will be allowed only under payee scheme to upgrade them to an economic size.

Besides, only an integrated unit of 25,000 spindles and 1,000 looms and finishing will be sanctioned.

Another highlight of the new policy is that no foreign managers or supervisors could be hired for running the mills as enough local technical and managerial skill was available. The All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association will be associated in arranging training in these sectors.

The Cabinet Committee also reviewed the energy resources demands and requirements of the country for the next 10 years. It was decided to set up a working group to work out a development strategy.

In terms of oil prices, the gas earnings of the country save \$1.3 billion (Rs. 1,300 crore) every year. With the demand growing as it is, and these resources being extendable, it was necessary that an action plan for the next 10 years is evolved so that financial resources are allocated at this juncture to developing facilities both for electric power and gas. The working group will report to the Committee in two weeks' time.

The Committee was told that the first exploratory well at Adhi will go into production by March 31, with a daily output of 2,000 barrels, which will help save considerable foreign exchange as a barrel of crude costs 26 dollars.

The Committee was further told that work on more exploratory wells in Adhi oilfield would commence simultaneously.

The Committee approved a proposal to float a national tanker company in order to bring crude and other distillates from sources in the Middle East. Since no new tankers are available, the company would purchase a 3 to 4-year old tanker with the assistance of the Islamic Development Bank. The tanker will facilitate the timely movement of crude to Karachi and further ensure the supply which is dependent on the policies of foreign shipping companies.

The Committee was further informed that uptill March 1, 1980, 7,43,741 bales of cotton had been exported. It may be recalled that the Committee had fixed the target of two million bales for export for the current fiscal year.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers for Production and Industries, Water and Power, Food and Agriculture and Railways, besides concerned Federal Secretaries.

CSO: 4220

INCREASED RICE PRODUCTION URGED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Apr 80 p 8

[Text] Islamabad. March 31: The Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Rear Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua has called for development of an integrated package of technology to maximise rice production in the country which should be promptly passed on to the growers.

Inaugurating a two-day workshop on rice production here this morning, he pointed out that the existing average yields of about 2.6 tonnes and 4 tonnes of paddy per hectare of Basmati and IRRI varieties respectively constitute a source of main concern. The low yields, he said, pose a challenge for the agricultural scientists, extension workers and the farmers alike who should analyse the factors responsible and take remedial measures to improve the situation.

Highlighting importance of rice, he said that this crop enjoyed special position in the economy of the country. Besides being a major source of foreign exchange earnings, it provides over 2 million tons for local consumption and its productions and processing engage thousands of people he added.

Vast Potential

The chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Dr Amir Mohammad, in his paper on "Critical factors for boosting rice production: said that vast potential for increasing production of rice existed in the country which could be exploited by developing appropriate technology and implementing an action oriented plan.

Cooperation

Dr Paolo Torella Di Romagnano, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, who also spoke on the occasion, referred to close and fruitful cooperation between Pakistan and his country saying that it would be further strengthened as a result of Italian expert participation in the workshop.--PPI

BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WHEAT CROP EXPECTED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 26: The national target of 10.63 million tonnes set for wheat production during the current Rabi is expected to be exceeded bringing the country close to the attainment of self-sufficiency in wheat.

The area under wheat has reportedly exceeded by 5.6 per cent and timely rains and efforts of the extension staff together have contributed in brightening the prospects of a bumper crop.

This information was given at the 32nd meeting of the Federal Committee on Agriculture, which reviewed the latest position of Rabi crop here today. Food and Agriculture Minister, Rear Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua, who is Chairman of the Committee presided over the meeting.

The Committee also fixed target for production of cotton during 1980-81 at 4.3 million bales against an all time record of 4.16 million

bales this year.

It was also decided that the Punjab Agriculture Department would make available 4.5 lakh maunds of quality seed for sale to the growers, while in Sind 2.50 lakh maunds would be supplied by the provincial government.

It was decided that the provisions of the Cotton Control Act should be strictly enforced to ensure proper zoning of the cotton varieties.

The sugarcane target was fixed at 32.6 million tonnes for 1980-81, against the estimated production of 27.2 million tonnes during the current year.

It was decided that the existing legislation should be so amended as to ensure the timely lifting of sugarcane crop by the mills.

The Committee fixed rice production target at 3.6 million tonnes as against the estimated production of 3.2 million tonnes during the current year.

The Committee showed con-

cern over the present edible oil-seed situation and emphasised the need of increasing their production in shortest possible time.

The meeting, lasting about six hours, was attended by Agriculture Advisors of the Punjab and the NWFP, Federal Food and Agriculture Secretary, Chairman, PARC, Provincial Agriculture Secretaries and representatives of concerned Ministries and agencies.

JUDICIOUS USE OF KEY INPUTS STRESSED: Addressing the meeting, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture underscored the need for evolving an integrated national programme to obtain optimum level of return through judicious application of key inputs especially fertilizers.

Admiral Janjua said the government was resolutely pursuing policies aimed at boosting farm output by providing greater incentives to the agriculturists in the form of better return, promoting increased use of inputs, modernising methods of cultivation, strengthening network of extension service and improving scope of facilities in the right direction. — APP

WHEAT OUTPUT IN SIND EXCEEDS TARGET

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Apr 80 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Hyderabad, March 31: The Sind Governor, Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, inaugurated the wheat harvesting season in the province by cutting a ripe bunch of the approved high-yielding Pawan variety with a sickle, at the Chaudhry Aftab Ahmad Farms here this morning.

The season was heralded here with traditional "Ho Jamaro dance and folk music."

In his address on the occasion, the Governor happily announced that the province this year had exceeded the wheat production target (fixed by the Federal Government at 18.10 lakh tonnes) and attaining of 18.79 lakh tonnes was expected.

He disclosed that the acreage under wheat crop had lately been increased to 24.92 lakh acres with the concerted efforts of the concerned Government agencies and due to the interest shown by the grower community for the success of the wheat maximising drive.

Lt-Gen Abbasi said Sind had also reaped record yield in cotton and rice crops. It had also recorded a 10 percent increase in sugar with the honest endeavours under way and with the fullest cooperation of the growers coupled with favourable weather conditions, he added, it was hoped that the province would march ahead and its agricultural economy will shortly attain a take-off point.

The Governor said production of sugarcane in Sind had increased, but it had to be increased further. According to agricultural experts, he added, climate conditions and soil in Sind were more suitable for sugarcane cultivation.

Justifying the Government decision to withdraw subsidy in the supply of fertilizers and pesticides, he said the Government had decided to fix support price for each crop at the stage of its cultivation. The support-price for wheat, he said had already been fixed at Rs 45 a maund.

Lt-Gen Abbasi said the Governor's Shield would be awarded to a district that proportionate exceeded in the wheat production, compared to official statistics available for the district for the preceding Rabi season.

COTTON YARN EXPORTS INCREASED 38 PERCENT IN 1979

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 4 Apr 80 p 7

[Text] Pakistan exported cotton yarn worth over Rs 186 crore in 1979 showing an increase of 38 percent over the previous year, the Vice-chairman of the Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association said here.

Addressing the association's 19th annual general meeting, Haji Essa Katchi said that the quantity-wise the rise in export was of 23 percent over the previous year. [as printed]

Hong Kong, he said, continued to be the top lifter among the importing countries. It imported over five crore kilograms valued at over Rs 99.58 crore 54 percent of the total export of the country.

Japan was the second largest importer followed by China and Italy.

The import of synthetic yarn stood at over Rs 133 crore against over Rs 65.79 crore in 1978. The components of this group of yarn consisted of polyester textured yarn, nylon filament yarn, polyester filament yarn, nylon crimped and textured yarn, etc. Singapore, Japan, Italy and Korea were the main suppliers.

The Vice-Chairman said that the import of art silk yarn in Pakistan in 1979 stood at over Rs 14 crore against over Rs nine crore in 1978 and Japan was the main supplier followed by Korea and West Germany.

He said that during nine months of 1979, Pakistan imported pure silk yarn worth over Rs 74 lakh from China.

The newly elected Chairman of the Association, Mr Anwar Ahmed, addressing the meeting urged the Government to merge import Free list A and B into one Free List only.--APP.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MINI-FISHING PORT--The Chairman District Council, Gwadur, Haji Mohammad Ebrahim Khan Baluch has hailed the Government decision to construct a modern, mini-fishing port at Gwadur at a cost of forty crore rupees. In a statement here, he praised the efforts of the President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and the Provincial Governor, Lt-Gen. Rahimuddin Khan, for the development of Gwadur coastal area, for the benefit of the local population. He said, the possibilities are also being examined for coconut plantation throughout the Mekran coastline. [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 80 p 1]

INCREASED MARBLE EXPORTS--Despite international competition, the export of Pakistani marble, mined in the Chagai district of Baluchistan is expected to rise, because of its quality and multiple colors. This was stated by the "Marble Monarch," Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zahri when interviewed by the BBC in its Urdu Service's Weekly programme "Aitwar kay Aitwar," broadcast from London this morning. He also explained the methods of marble mining and the difficulties being faced in its operation, haulage, processing and polishing. Mr Zahri is currently in London. [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 80 p 1]

MALAKAND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES--The Agriculture Department, Malakand Division, has stirred up its activities in order to increased the foodgrains during the month of February last. According to a report released here today, 65, 180 bags of various kinds of fertilizer were distributed among the farming community beside laying 341 wheat and 92 demonstration plots of oil seeds. In addition, the field staff contacted 7600 persons, delivered 990 lectures and visited 440 private farms in order to acquaint the farmers with the modern techniques of cultivation. Similarly, the field staff of the department held 20 meetings in various villages and distributed 300 pamphlets about the proper use of agricultural inputs and deriving tangible results. Moreover, 55 acres of land was levelled besides making 10 compost pits. Besides, the field staff also attended 30 district council, 30 tehsil council and 50 union council meetings during the period under report. Likewise, about 890 maunds of wheat seed was protected against diseases apart from fumigating of 1331 CM stores and killing of 755542 wild animals. The Department also carried out spraying operations over different crops including rice, maize, sugar-cane, wheat, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, fruit orchards and fruit nurseries during the month under review. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 9 Mar 80 p 3]

COAL WASHING PLANT--Quetta, March 22: The country's first coal washing plant at Sharigh in Baluchistan has started trial production. An official spokesman told PTV in Quetta yesterday that the plant has been completed at a cost of Rs 30 million including a foreign exchange component of Rs 20 million. The spokesman said the Canadian International Development Agency has met the entire foreign exchange cost of the coal washing plant in the shape of machinery and technical know-how. The Baluchistan Governor Lt-Gen Rahimuddin Khan is expected to inaugurate the coal washing plant in Sharigh on April 10. The plant would be producing 75,000 tons of washed coal worth over Rs 60 million per annum. The entire produce would be sent to the Pakistan Steel Mills meeting about eight percent of its total requirements of washed coal. It has been estimated that with this rate of production the plant would pay back its entire cost within next five years of its commissioning. There are huge deposits of coal available in the area sufficient to last for 70 years to feed the plant.--PPI. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 80 p 6]

DRIED FRUIT TO GDR--Karachi, March 7: Pakistan will export 1,000 tons of dried fruit to the German Democratic Republic during the current month and April, it was learnt here. According to an official source, contracts for the purchase of dried fruits were signed by a three-member trade delegation from the German Democratic Republic with Pakistani exporters during a visit in the middle of January this year. The Export Promotion Bureau helped the delegation to establish contacts with reputable Pakistani exporters of almonds and apricots.--PPI. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 80 p 5]

PADDY PROCUREMENT TARGET--The target fixed for the procurement of Basmati in the Punjab having been achieved, the Provincial Government has decided to desual rice hullers located in the entire monopoly procurement area with immediate effect, the Provincial Food Secretary said on Thursday. He said there will be no restriction now on extraction of rice from the paddy even in the procurement areas. He said the Government had fixed a procurement target of 3.50 lakh tons for Basmati which now stood fully achieved. The Government had purchased 771,350 tons of paddy which contained 50 percent of Basmati rice. He said a ban as usual had been imposed on the hullers plying the rural areas in respect of husking the paddy. However, operation of one huller had been allowed in each of the Union Council area for meeting the local demands. The owners of hullers could now operate them as the District Magistrates in the 12 monopoly procurement districts have been asked by the Government to desual them.--APP [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 80 p 8]

APPROVAL ON WHEAT MILLING--The Punjab Government has decided to supply wheat to the approved flour mills grinding atta in the private account to prepare thela atta for sale in the open market. The Director, Food, Punjab said in Lahore on Wednesday these mills would be provided wheat for four-hour grinding period daily at no-profit-no-loss basis from Government reserves. He said previously it was allowed only in five districts but now the Government had decided to supply four-hour milling requirement of all approved mills in the province to prepare thela atta in the private account. The Director, Food, said that there were 61 approved mills in the province

and requirement of these mills would be 1100 tons of wheat per day. He said monthly requirement of these mills would be about 30,000 tons which the Government would supply. Replying to a question, he said there were ample stocks of wheat in the Government reserve and it would experience no difficulty in supplying wheat to these mills. He said this step had been taken by the Government to keep prices of thela atta and wheat in the open market at a reasonable level.--PPI [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 80 p 3]

AID FOR POLYESTER PLANT--Karachi, March 4: The Islamic Development Bank will provide equity assistance of \$3.6 million for a polyester plant to be established in Pakistan, it is learnt. The equity participation facility will be in the form of 30 percent shares of the company which will run the plant. The company will produce 12,000 tons of polyester fibre and 3,000 tons of polyester yarn to meet the domestic requirements of the textile industry and will save foreign exchange currently being incurred to meet the import of these items. The equity participation of the Islamic Bank form the total loans of Rs. 87.5 million recently approved by it for projects in Pakistan.--PPI [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 80 p 6]

WHEAT CROP PROSPECTS GOOD--The prospects of wheat crop are highly bright in the Punjab this year. The provincial government has fixed the procurement target 20% higher than last year. The Provincial Food Secretary, Mr Ghulam Murtaza Piracha told the APP here today that 14 lakh tons of wheat would be procured by the Provincial Food Department and seven lakh tons by the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Supply Corporation (PASSCO). The provincial government had procured 12 lakh tons of wheat last year while the PAACO six and a half lakh tons. Mr Piracha said plans were being given the final shape for the procurement of wheat at the purchasing centres. The provincial government proposes to set up 600 centres to be manned by the staff belonging to different government agencies as before, he added. He said the centres would start functioning from May 1 next as the harvesting in the Punjab begins in the last week of April normally. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 80 p 3]

SUGAR IMPORTS--The prices of sugar in the international market have shot up by about 75 percent during the last 10 weeks. According to the indentors sugar was quoted at 390 dollars per metric ton in December 1979 and now in the international market sugar is being sold around 680 dollars per metric tons, hence a difference of 290 dollars has occurred during the intervening period. The trade circles have apprehended that Pakistan would have to incur a loss of more than Rs. 25 crore in the import of about 90,000 metric tons of sugar. It may be mentioned here that the TCP had contracted to import 90,000 metric tons of sugar from a foreign firm based in London during December 1979, but the foreign sellers failed to ship even the first consignment and since then have backed out of the contract. It is interesting to note that the TCP had effected this big deal without inviting international tenders. Furthermore the TCP did not even obtain any performance bond from the sellers to cover the risk. The TCP has now floated the tender for the purchase of sugar. If the price difference is taken into consideration this would mean a loss of more than 26 million dollars to TCP. It is also learnt that Pakistan will have to import more than one lakh tons of sugar because of the feared shortfall in production in NWFP. About half a dozen sugar mills have close down before time during the present season because of the shortage of sugarcane. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 80 p 10]

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